Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think it is time that Saipan enacted an anti-animal cruelty statute?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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ID Rules

New border-crossing rules that take effect in two weeks will mean longer lines and stiffer demands for ID.

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Young Osama

Omar Osama bin Laden bears a striking resemblance to his father—except for the dreadlocks.

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Croc or Gator?

They both cry, but not from sadness. Can you tell an alligator from a crocodile?

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Diabetes now covered by insurance

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A bill requiring health insurance firms to include diabetes in their covered benefits is now a law.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez signed into law Senate Bill 15-15 on Thursday. The bill is now known as Public Law 15-125, or the Diabetes Health Maintenance Act.

Sponsored by Rota Sen. Paul A. Manglona, the measure requires health insurance plans to provide coverage for diabetes supplies and self-management education as part of basic coverage.

It is seen to benefit people with insulin-using diabetes and with elevated blood

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RARE TRAFFIC JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A long line of cars is seen going up As Tarlaje hill near the Northern Marianas College. The traffic was due to an auto accident involving a Honda civic and a white SUV yesterday afternoon.

Garment board's term extend anew

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has extended again the term of the Garment Oversight Board to accomplish its task of distributing over $2 million that remains in the class lawsuit against the garment industry.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered that the term of the board be extended until July

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Anti-, pro-federalization groups set Sunday activities

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Supporters of immigration federalization will conduct a cleanup at American Memorial Park, while the anti-federalization group holds its peaceful rally tomorrow.

Organizers of the Dec. 7 Unity March announced yesterday that they will hold a cleanup at the national park on Sunday, from 9am until noon.

The group said the event is part of the "King Day of Service," which kicks off a 40-day national initiative promoting Martin Luther King's message of nonviolence and social justice. It is Martin Luther King Day on Monday, Jan. 21.

"The organizers of the December 7, 2007 Unity March are inviting all members of the community, of all nation-

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Generational split in black vote?

By SHANNON McCAFFREY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ATLANTA (AP)—When civil rights elders signed on to support Hillary Rodham Clinton's run for president, it was seen as a coup in the competition for the black vote, especially in the Deep South.

Yet many younger black voters seem to be shrugging off the sway of leaders such as Rep. John Lewis and former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, siding instead with Barack Obama's history-making bid to be the nation's first black president.

Democratic presidential hopeful, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., addresses the crowd at a town hall meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008. AP

It's a generational struggle that should serve as a warning to Democrats as they head into primary contests in states with large black populations: The black vote today is anything but monolithic.

It also suggests the influence the civil rights leaders have enjoyed as political kingmakers is waning.

"The figureheads are not actually gatekeepers to the black vote," said William Jelani Cobb, a 38-year-old history professor at the historically black Spelman College.

"No disrespect, but they don't speak for us."

The candidates face their first showdown for black votes in South Carolina on Jan. 26 and another on Feb. 5, when states with large minority populations,

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Local

'CNMI yet to achieve same status as US'

PSS MEETING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Education Commissioner David M. Borja gestures as he speaks during the CNMI Public School System's Principal's & Program Managers meeting at the Pacific Islands Club Thursday.

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Although the CNMI is part of the United States, it has yet to achieve the same socio-economic status as the mainland, according to the Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan for the CNMI 2007-2012.

The plan stated that unemployment, lack of insurance, and living conditions all affect the level of care to which an individual can have access to on the islands.

The median income in the CNMI, according to the latest census, is $22, 898, with unemployment at 4 percent. While the poverty rate in the U.S. mainland is below 13 percent, over 46 percent of households in the CNMI are earning below that.

The CCC Plan indicated that in 1999, Saipan had the highest poverty rate at 39 percent; followed by Tinian, 30 percent; and Rota, 27 percent.

Furthermore, it added that child poverty rates exceeded 50 percent in Saipan's 1, 2, and 3 districts.

Saipan also had the highest percentage of teenagers aging 16-19 who dropped out of high school at 32 percent, compared with 18 percent on Tinian and 8 percent on Rota.

Over half, 54 percent, of the households in the Northern Marianas neither have hot nor cold running water in their homes. Overall, 3 percent of the population has no public access to water.

According to the CCC Plan, "living conditions for many families are inadequate for proper hygiene important for overall health. Access to both screening and tools to aid in coping with and treating cancer depend greatly on socio-economic status."

'08 Toyota Yaris up for grabs in fundraiser

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

A brand new 2008 four-door Toyota Yaris is up for grabs for anyone who can shoot a hole-in-one at hole number 12 of the Coral Ocean Point golf course during the Wakai Nekko No Kai Friendship Golf Tournament.

According to Mayor's office public information officer Tony Benavente, the car itself costs nearly $15,000. If nobody manages to shoot that hole-in-one, "the car will have to go back to the dealer."

Trophies and cash prizes ranging from $400 to $100 will be given to those who place first to fourth place in the tournament.

Fifth to tenth place winners will be given consolation prizes.

According to Benavente, 30 individuals have so far registered to participate to join the tournament.

However, "we're expecting 125 players by Jan. 23," said Benavente.

Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Jerry Tan donated 125 pieces of Ralph Lauren Polo shirts with a retail value of $62.50 each, to be given out for free to the players of the tournament.

Because the tournament will be a weekday, Benavente said the "friends of Wakai Nokko" are hoping that the governor will approve the administrative leave of those who are participating in the event.

The Northern Marianas College is sending 20 of its students as volunteers to help in the tournament.

The golf tournament will be a double Peoria format at the Coral Ocean Point on Jan. 23, 2008. The $75 fee registration fee will cover the green fee, the raffle drawing, and a banquet at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The "Friends of Wakai Nekko" committee has also scheduled three marathon events this morning. The marathon events fundraiser kick off a series of fundraisers to help save the ocean university.

The three marathon events are the 10K, full-marathon, and half marathon. The 10K marathon will start from the Marianas Visitors Authority office in San Jose down to the Pacific Islands' Club and back. The half-marathon will start from Micro Beach down to PIC and back to Micro Beach; and the full marathon will start from Micro Beach up to Marpi and then down to PIC and back to Micro Beach. Registrations for the marathon events will begin at 6am and the marathons will commence at 6:30am or 7am.

According to Benavente, 10 percent of the proceeds collected from the marathon will be sent to Wakai Nekko No Kai's president and owner Hideo Kato.

Labor disqualifies owner of former Club Taboo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has permanently barred the company that used to own Club Taboo from hiring nonresident workers for breaching a settlement agreement in a labor case.

Labor Administrative Hearing Officer Jerry Cody disqualified Pacific Belle Inc. from employing or using foreign national workers in the Commonwealth.

"[Pacific Belle]'s conduct in this case demonstrates bad faith," said Cody in his order.

Cody ordered Pacific Belle to pay its former worker, Marilyn A. Miralles, the remaining balance of the settlement, amounting to $2,800, no later than 20 days. In addition, the company was told to pay Miralles $2,800 in liquidated damages.

If Pacific Belle fails to comply with the order, Cody said the Labor director should take steps to obtain coverage under the applicable surety body for this employment.

According to Labor records, Miralles filed a labor complaint against Pacific Belle in 2005 alleging nonpayment of wages.

In August 2005, Miralles and Pacific Belle settled the case by means of a stipulated settlement agreement that was approved by Labor. Under the agreement, Pacific Belle agreed to pay the worker a total of $3,400.

The agreement called for the respondent to pay the settlement in monthly installments of $200 each, commencing on Oct. 1, 2005 and continuing until fully paid.

The agreement specified that if the company fails to pay the settlement according to the payment schedule, the entire unpaid balance of the settlement would become immediately due and owing.

The agreement also stated that respondent's failure to comply with the terms of the agreement would result in the assessment of liquidated damages in the amount of the "remaining unpaid settlement sum."

Since entering into the settlement, Pacific Belle has paid only three monthly installments, amounting to a total of $600, leaving an unpaid balance due to complainant in the amount of $2,800.

In January 2007, then administrative hearing officer Herbert Soll held an order to show cause hearing regarding this case.

In that hearing, Cody said, Noel Reyes of Pacific Belle said that he was going to sell real property in the coming weeks, which would enable him to pay the settlement.

Cody said the matter was then put on hold to await information from Reyes regarding the real property sale.

As no payment was made, a hearing was set for Jan. 9, 2008, to address why Pacific Belle had not paid and why additional sanctions should not be imposed.

Cody said no Pacific Belle representative, however, appeared at the hearing.

The hearing officer said the respondent breached the settlement by failing to make a numerous installment payments.

Second, Cody said, Pacific Belle failed to resume payments even after participating in the order to show cause hearing before Soll in January 2007.

Finally, Cody said, the respondent failed to attend the Jan. 9, 2008 hearing and therefore, has offered no explanation for its substantial breach of the payment terms of the agreement.

US military sets FDM briefing for lawmakers

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The U.S. military will brief lawmakers on its activities on Farallon de Mendenilla, amid concerns about the environmental impact of bombing exercises on the island.

The U.S. Naval Forces Marianas is sending COMNAVMAR representative Roy Tsutsui to make the presentation to the House of Representatives on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2008, at 10:30am.

The briefing was scheduled following the adoption by the 15th Legislature of a resolution requesting the military to stop its bombing exercises on Farallon de Mendenilla until an environmental analysis has been done on the island.

Prior to the resolution, Reps. Ray N. Yumul and Stanley T. Torres wrote a joint letter to the U.S. Naval Forces Marianas to express concern about the continued use of Farallon de Mendinilla as a live fire bombing range.

They said they were concerned the island had lost a significant amount of landmass due to the bombing exercises.

Farallon de Mendinilla has been used as a live fire range since 1976, pursuant to a lease agreement between the U.S. and CNMI governments. The lease is for 50 years with a possible 50-year extension.

Yumul and Torres noted that under the terms of the Covenant, the CNMI had leased approximately 83 hectares. Based on "certain" government reports, the landmass is now reportedly down to only 72 hectares.

They also asked the Navy to provide the CNMI Legislature with all FDM-related data prepared since 1976, including aerial photos taken of the island and annual assessments done by and for the Navy.

In addition, they requested for copies of annual reports on the total number and types of ordnances that have been dropped or fired upon FDM since 1976.

CONSERVATION PLANNING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Participants from different CNMI resource agencies such as Division of Fish and Wildlife, Coral Resource Management Office and Division of Environmental Quality listen to Trina Leberer of the Nature Conservancy during the Conservation Action Planning workshop at the Pacific Islands Club Thursday.

PREL one of the best places to work in Hawaii

Pacific Resources for Education and Learning has been selected as one of 2008's Best Places to Work in Hawaii by *Hawaii Business* Magazine.

PREL president & CEO Tom Barlow made the announcement to his staff.

Best Places to Work in Hawaii, sponsored by ProService Hawaii, is an annual feature for *Hawaii Business*. This past year, employees of organizations competing for the awards were surveyed across the state. Their responses were compiled by the Best Companies Group and used to determine Hawaii's top employers.

Participation in the program required each organization to go through a workplace assessment process. The process included surveying staff, as well as taking an inventory of company benefits, policies, and offerings. The information was then processed and analyzed to determine the Best Places to Work in Hawaii.

The ranking of the 2008 Best Places to Work in Hawaii companies will be announced for the first time at the 4th annual Hawaii Business Best Places to Work Awards Dinner on March 27, 2008, at the Hilton Hawaiian Village.

Additional information about the award is available on the Best Places to Work in Hawaii website at http://bestplacestoworkinhi.com.

PREL (www.prel.org) is an independent, nonprofit 501 (c) (3) corporation that works in partnership with the Pacific educational community to provide quality programs and products developed to promote educational excellence, including professional development and educational materials.

In addition, PREL administers the Regional Educational Laboratory, one of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories funded through the Institute of Education Sciences of the U.S. Department of Education.

PREL serves the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. ***(PREL)***

Registration starts for 2nd Guam Industry Forum

HAGATNA, Guam—The second Guam Industry Forum is officially kicked off with the launching of a new web site and registration portal. The Forum is sponsored by the Joint Guam Program Office, JGPO, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NAVFAC.

The Forum will provide updates on the planning and acquisition strategy efforts following the first Industry Forum held on Guam in August 2007, which was attended by over 1,000 industry and government representatives. Anticipated topics for the March 6-8, 2008 forum include:

- Master Planning and Environmental Impact Statement updates
- Acquisition Strategy and Program Management Approaches
- Special Purpose Entities Status for Housing and Utilities
- Funding Profiles & Relationships - Government of Japan and the United States
- Government of Guam Issues and Needs
- Future Department of Defense Needs
- Federal Involvement

"This Forum will provide more detailed insight into the build-up process for both Industry and government." said Andy Wall, Acquisitions Director for NAVFAC Marianas. "We look forward to sharing our updates and exchanging ideas and strategies with both large and small businesses who will be crucial to our collective success."

The forum will feature updates and presentations by JGPO, NAVFAC, and the Government of Guam, and will include four breakout sessions and an Industry Day for business to business networking.

"The Joint Guam Program Office is committed to ensuring that this build-up will benefit the Guam community in a lasting and positive fashion," said Capt. Robert Lee III, JGPO Forward. "We look forward to yet another successful Forum exchanging information and engaging in positive dialogue with Industry and the Guam community."

More information on the Guam Industry Forum II, the agenda, and registration forms are available on-line at www.guamindustryforum.com.

Individuals and companies interested in attending the Forum are urged to respond quickly as registration will close on Feb. 25, 2008.

2 men convicted of stealing water tank

The Superior Court has ordered two men to spend seven days in prison for stealing a water tank.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama sentenced Lawrence Edward Camacho and Marcelino M. Taman to one year in prison, all suspended except for seven days.

Following a plea agreement, Lizama gave the defendants credit for the one day that they have already served in jail.

The judge placed the defendants on one-year probation and required them to each pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee plus a probation fee.

During the probationary period, Camacho and Taman will be required to perform 150 hours of community service.

Lizama said the defendants must pay restitution, if any, to be determined by the Office of the Attorney General within two months.

The judge ordered the defendants to write a letter of apology to the victim, Simeon Odoshi.

Camacho and Taman entered a plea agreement with the government, represented by chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr.

The defendants pleaded guilty to theft (a misdemeanor).

The two stole Odoshi's water tank on May 31, 2007, on Saipan.

In another court case, a Rota jury on Thursday afternoon acquitted a man of charges he raped an intoxicated alien worker inside a pickup truck.

The jurors reached a verdict finding Kent William A. Atalig not guilty on charges of sexual assault in the first degree (sexual penetration without consent), sexual assault in the second degree (sexual penetration while incapacitated), sexual assault in the second degree (sexual contact without consent), and sexual assault in the 3rd degree (sexual contact while incapacitated).

Assistant attorney generals Mike Nisperos and Joseph L.G. Taijeron Jr. prosecuted the case.

Defense attorneys Ramon Quichocho and Michael Dotts served as counsel for Atalig.

Detective Francis B. Manglona stated in his report that, during an interview by another detective of the victim, the woman told police that she, Atalig, and three other friends had attended a farewell party in Sinapalo on Dec. 7, 2006. Atalig used his pickup truck for the group's use. After the party they dropped two of their friends at their house.

The victim, Atalig, and another friend proceeded to Jan's World Bar to drink more beer.

On their way home, the victim said she fell asleep in the truck. When she regained consciousness, she said that she saw Atalig on top of her. She said she tried to push him away but failed because she was too tired and weak. Atalig then allegedly sexually assaulted her.

In his interview with Atalig, Manglona said that Atalig admitted he had sex with the victim, but stated she consented to it.

Atalig claimed that he stopped when the victim told him she does not want to continue it. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SWEARING IN JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio facilitates the installation of the Society for Human Resource Management-CNMI Chapter's 2008 board of directors and officers during the group's first general membership meeting Pacific Islands Club Charley's Cabaret Thursday.

GENERATIONAL

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such as Georgia, Alabama and Arkansas, will be among the 22 states holding primary contests.

Clinton, who seeks to become the first woman president, and Obama have been aggressively courting black votes for some time.

Both visited Selma, Alabama, in March for the anniversary of the "Bloody Sunday" civil rights march in 1965. And Obama is set to speak at Martin Luther King Jr.'s Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta on Sunday, a visit expected to be rich in symbolism coming the day before the King holiday.

In a sign of what's at stake, a heated dispute has erupted over Clinton's comment that King's dream of racial equality was realized only when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Bill Clinton's putdowns of the Illinois senator also have offended some blacks. Altogether, the scrap between the Clintons and the Obama camp has awakened racial sensitivities in the party that is supposed to know how to deal with race.

Blacks have traditionally voted overwhelmingly Democratic and Obama is picking up their support fast, according to new polls. An ABC-Washington Post survey this week found a 21-point increase in support for Obama among black voters in the last month, putting him up 60-32 over Clinton. He led the New York senator 49-34 in a CBS-New York Times poll.

Still, Clinton's husband enjoyed such strong support from black voters that he was dubbed the first black president. And Hillary Clinton has been able to capitalize on long-standing friendships with the black political elite in scoring endorsements. Whether that will translate into black votes is anyone's guess.

"For me personally, I have a long association with the Clintons and I'm very loyal to my friends," said Lewis, an Atlanta Democrat.

Younger blacks don't share the same old loyalties. And some lump older black leaders with the political establishment they say Obama is aiming to upend.

One civil rights veteran who is backing Obama shares that view. Joseph Lowery, former head of the Southern Christian Leadership Council, calls colleagues who are supporting Clinton "good old boys."

"They are business-as-usual, old-guard politicians and it's hard for them to break out of that mold," Lowery said.

At a speech Wednesday before the Hungry Club at the Butler Street YMCA in Atlanta, Lowery said blacks who doubt Obama's ability to compete are guilty of "a slave mentality."

"No matter how much education they have, they never graduated from the slave mentality," Lowery said. "The slavery mentality compels us to say, 'We can't win, we can't do.'"

Clinton has lined up the support of baseball Hall of Famer Hank Aaron, one-time basketball superstar Magic Johnson, Motown founder Berry Gordy and Black Entertainment Television founder Bob Johnson among others. Obama has Oprah Winfrey in his corner as well as R&B crooner Usher.

Clinton has poet Maya Angelou; Obama has the rapper Ludacris—a generational split all its own.

The campaign has divided some prominent households, too.

Jesse Jackson, who tried to become the first black president in his 1984 and 1988 campaigns, and his son, Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., are backing Obama. The elder Jackson's wife, Jacqueline, is supporting Clinton.

Georgia state Rep. Bob Holmes, former director of Clark Atlanta University's Southern Center for Studies in Public Policy, said blacks in the South could once count on a rigid brand of machine politics in which black churches and civic leaders delivered their voters.

That machine is no more, he said. "The younger generation is more independent and make up their own minds." Holmes also said younger blacks feel the old guard set its sights too low.

"This isn't the generation of slow struggle," he said. "This is the Me Generation and if they see a viable black candidate for president they don't see a reason why that shouldn't be possible right now."

SNAKE SHOW

Division of Fish and Wildlife herpetologist and brown tree snake program coordinator Nate B. Hawley shows the brown tree snake to students during the 2008 International Year of the Coral Reef proclamation at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Sandcastle in Garapan Friday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

GARMENT

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31, 2008 in order to receive all remaining funds and to distribute those money in accordance with the settlement agreement and the plan of distribution.

Originally, the board's term should have expired on July 29, 2007. The court extended that until Dec. 31, 2007. The court again extended the term to March 21, 2008.

Munson said that during discussions on the proposed plan for distribution of the residual funds on Jan. 10, it became apparent that there are several issues relating to the timing of the payments to be made by the board.

First, Munson pointed out, the board will need to wait for 60 days to determine if the initial checks it sent out will be cashed by the intended recipients.

Second, the judge said, there are some residual tax issues which the counsel of plaintiffs in the lawsuit and the claims administrator have represented will not be resolved until March or April 2008.

"The resolution of these issues could result in additional funds being available to the GOB for distribution," Munson said.

The board was set up to oversee the monitoring program of the garment industry.

Former CNMI Superior Court judge Timothy H. Bellas is board chairman. Retired judges Richard P. Guy and Cruz Reynoso are board members.

The San Francisco-based Gilardi and Co. (claims administrator) that was tasked to distribute the money to eligible garment workers had informed the district court that it successfully mailed out almost 29,800 checks to individuals located in 17 countries.

Gilardi said 13,725 checks were cashed, for a total distribution of $2.28 million out of an initial net fund of $3.98 million.

ANTI

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alities, cultural backgrounds, religions, and occupations to sustain the principles and ideals of the Unity March by participating in a Day of Service on Sunday," the Unity Movement said in a press statement.

"The cleanup will be in preparation for Martin Luther King Day and to enhance the enjoyment of the park by the public for weeks to come," the group added.

The Unity Movement also urged the public to participate in the activities organized by the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee in commemoration of Martin Luther King Day.

In particular, workers and community members were encouraged to join the mini-march and subsequent keynote program at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

March orientation and assembly will begin at 2:30pm at the American Memorial Park parking area, followed at 3pm by the mini-march. The keynote program will be held at 4:30am at the AMP amphitheater and will feature Dr. Kathryn Takara of the University of Hawaii.

"All Unity Movement supporting organizations and individuals are enthusiastically encouraged to join in the [said] events. Join us to reaffirm our commitment to Dr. King's ideals of non-violence, equality, and justice for all," the organizers said.

The Taotao Tano citizen group, on the other hand, along with political parties and other local community groups, will hold a rally on Sunday to show their opposition to legislation federalizing CNMI immigration.

Organizers say the rally will serve as a response to the "political activism of the CNMI's nonresident worker population clamoring for federalization to secure improved immigration status."

Participants will gather at the Garapan Fishing Base, across the Kristo Rai Church on Beach Road, at 10am. A motorcade will begin at 11am, to be followed by a barbecue and potlock luncheon at the fishing base.

"The overwhelming majority of our CNMI residents are strongly against federalization, but they have not spoken out or made their views clear," said Gregorio Cruz, president of the Taotao Tano citizen group, one of the leaders of the rally. "This event is an opportunity for all of our residents to join together against Federalization without representation."

Cruz said CNMI residents must put their differences aside and unite as one community to speak out against federalization, which he called "the greatest threat to the CNMI's economy and local self-government."

The U.S. House of Representatives has passed the bill extending immigration law and create a federally run guest-worker program in the Commonwealth.

The bill would also give the CNMI a delegate in the House with limited voting powers. Currently, all U.S. possessions except the CNMI have a delegate in Congress.

The bill is now part of an omnibus measure, which is expected to pass the U.S. Senate in early February 2008.

If the Senate passes S. 2483 without amendments, the bill may go straight to President Bush for signature. But if there are amendments, the bill will have to return to the House for concurrence.

DIABETES

From Page 1

glucose levels induced by pregnancy.

"This coverage shall be a basic health care benefit and shall entitle each individual to the medically accepted standard of medical care for diabetes and benefits for diabetes treatments, as well as diabetes supplies, and this coverage shall not be reduced or eliminated," states the legislation.

The Office of the Disability Policy and Programs had lobbied the administration to approve the bill.

Thomas J. Camacho, the governor's special assistant for disability policy and programs, said the measure would bring CNMI legislation consistent with federal laws such as the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act. ADA is a federal law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities.

"This is a good bill that stands to benefits thousands of our citizens with disabilities primarily those with diabetes," he said.

Camacho said that diabetes is a disability when it "substantially limits one or more of a person's major life activities."

He pointed out that major life activities are basic activities that an average person can perform with little or no difficulty, "such as eating or caring for oneself."

Diabetes, however, becomes a disability when it causes side effects or complications that largely limits a major life activity, he said.

"Even if diabetes is not currently substantially limiting because it is controlled by diet, exercise, oral medication, and/or insulin, and there are no serious side effects, the condition may be a disability because it was substantially limiting in the past (i.e., before it was diagnosed and adequately treated)," Camacho stated.

Finally, he said, diabetes is a disability when, even if it does not significantly affect a person's everyday activities, but the employer treats the individual as if it does.

"Under the ADA, the determination of whether an individual has a disability is made on a case-by-case basis," Camacho added.

He said that the ADA requires employers to provide adjustments or modifications to enable people with disabilities to enjoy equal employment opportunities, unless doing so would be an undue hardship (i.e., a significant difficulty or expense).

"Accommodations vary depending on the needs of the individual with a disability. Not all employees with diabetes will need an accommodation or require the same accommodation," he said.

The types of "reasonable" accommodations that a diabetic employee needs, according to Camacho, is a private area to test blood sugar levels or to take insulin; a place to rest until blood sugar levels become normal; and breaks to eat or drink, take medication, or test blood sugar levels.

Villagomez signed the bill while serving as acting governor. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was off island, paying a courtesy visit to the new Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia. ***(with Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)***

2008 is International Year of the Coral Reef

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Coral Reef and the CNMI is joining in the celebration with the signing of a proclamation yesterday declaring 2008 as the CNMI Year of the Reef.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez jointly made the declaration during opening ceremonies at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle.

The IYCR 2008 is a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and the threats to their sustainability. It is also intended to motivate people to take action and protect coral reefs.

Fran Castro, the CNMI's coral reef point of contact, said that reef's are very important to the islands' culture and livelihood and this entire year, "we'll focus on protecting our reefs and raising awareness and getting our community involved."

Villagomez disclosed that Managaha's coral reefs have one of the highest points evaluated in the world. "People don't know that our reefs are one of the most evaluated reefs in the Pacific," he said.

He said that members of the community must do their part in protecting the islands' coral reefs.

A CNMI Coral Reef Initiative was started in 1997 in conjunction with the first International Year of the Coral Reef. Funding through the U.S. Coral Reef Initiative Management and Monitoring Grant programs provided renewed momentum for this program.

Fitial urges "each citizen, each resident to become more aware, more knowledgeable and more action-oriented toward personal protection and collective conservation of our invaluable coral reefs."

Before the endorsement, Coastal Resource Management director John B. Joyner read aloud the proclamation.

According to the proclamation document, "coral reefs are of outstanding beauty, have long been congruent with our subsistence and culture.

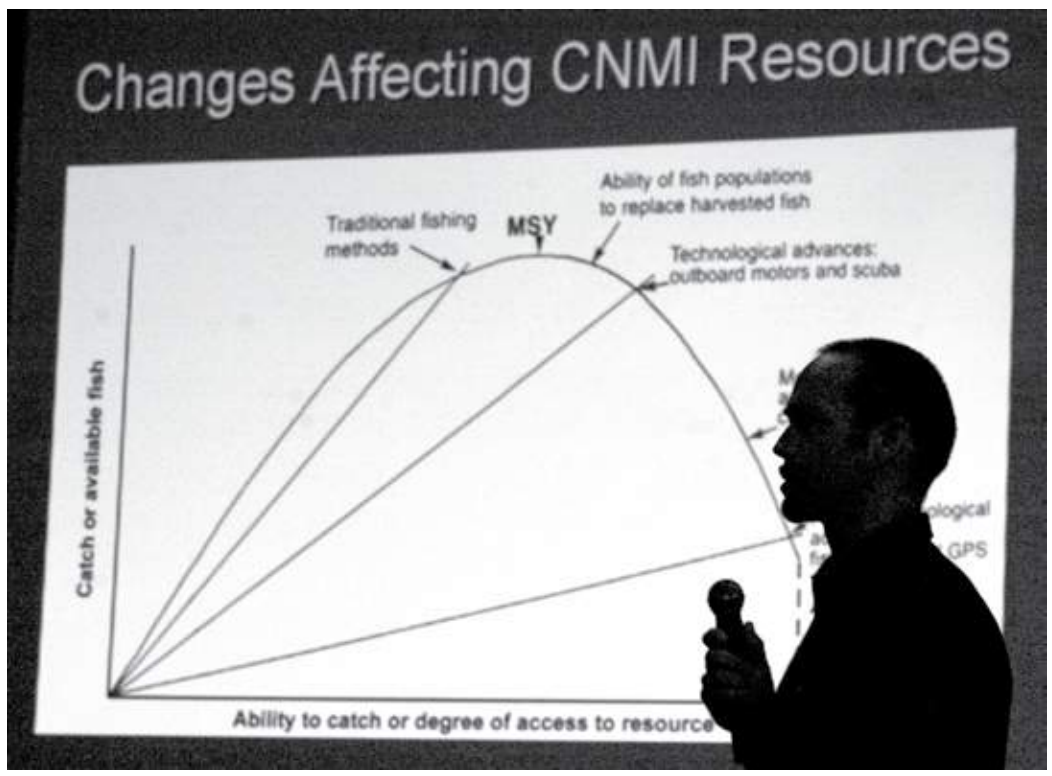
"Coral reefs provide a home for thousands of reef organisms and are also known for their medicinal value. Coral reefs also protect shorelines from storms and erosion and provide the foundation for eco-tourism industry.

"Coral reefs are threatened by human impacts such as improper watershed development, sedimentation, marine debris, nitrification from sewage discharge, over-fishing, vessel groundings, and boat anchor damage, chemical spills and global climate change."

The need to continue to increase public awareness and understanding of the "importance of the coral reefs and to further appreciate, conserve and mange these valuable coral reefs and their associated ecosystems," Joyner read.

The CNMI government and other numerous community based organizations have implemented projects to reduce the threat of human impacts through improved marine monitoring, bioresearch, community awareness and outreach, community forums , just to name a few.

"The people of the Commonwealth have a personal responsibility to protect coral reefs for future generations," Joyner added.


Changes Affecting CNMI Resources
Traditional fishing methods
MSY
Ability of fish populations to replace harvested fish
Technological advances: outboard motors and scuba
Catch or available fish
Ability to catch or degree of access to resource
GPS

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Coastal Resources Management Marine Biologist John Starmer delivers his presentation on the current status of the CNMI's coral reefs during the 2008 International Year of the Coral Reef proclamation at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Sandcastle in Garapan Friday morning.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Two burglary incidents

The CNMI Crime Stoppers is asking the community for information on the individual(s) responsible for the burglary and theft incident at the NMI Council of Humanities and Mercy's Beauty Salon located in Dan Dan. The incident was reported on Jan. 7, 2007. Items stolen from the NMI Humanities included three desktop computers. Other items stolen during the incident included a DVD player, jewelry, and a cell phone.

Anyone having information about this crime, call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays cash rewards up to $1,000 for information leading to an arrest.

- Caller ID is not used.
- All calls remain anonymous.
- It pays to make the call.

BIRTHDAY BASH CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The party never stops at Shirleys Coffee Shop in Susupe as Amy Rose Cabanting celebrates her 8th birthday!

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free child car seat inspection today

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting a seat check today, Jan. 19, 2008, from 9am to 11am, at the Price Costco parking lot.

Certified child passenger safety technicians will be available to inspect safety seats to ensure they are correctly installed. This is a free service to the community.

The Department of Public Safety encourages parents and caregivers to stop by to learn more about proper installation and use of child safety seats and booster seats.

For more information, call the DPS, Traffic Section at 664-9085. ***(DPS)***

Ngarchelong Association meeting tomorrow

There will be a special meeting for all Ngarchelong Association members tomorrow, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008 at 4pm. The special meeting will be held at Francis Yoshida's residence in Koblerville.

All members are urged to attend. There will be important matters to discuss and general election for new officers. For more information regarding this meeting, contact Helga Sambal at (670) 288-4354 or Elsie S. Ngewakl at (670) 287-0595. ***(PR)***

San Antonio Bingo Spectacular tomorrow

The San Antonio Parish Council will be hosting a "Bingo Spectacular" fundraising event tomorrow, Jan. 20, 2008, from 1pm until around 5pm. This event will be held at the San Antonio Parish Social Hall.

Tickets for Bingo Spectacular are on sale at the Parish Office for $20 each. About $1,000 cash prizes will be given away and plenty of other door prizes are up for grabs.

SSHS PTA meeting

To all parents/legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School, there will be a PTA meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008 at 6pm in the cafeteria. ***(PR)***

NMC's updated Spring dates

Applications for the Spring Semester at the Northern Marianas College are currently being accepted through the Office of Admissions and Records. Here are some key dates to remember:

LATE Registration
Jan. 19, 2008 9am-12pm
First Day of Instruction
Jan. 22, 2008
Last Day of Instruction
May 10, 2008

Applicants can visit the OAR Office or call 234-5498 extensions 1523 or 1540 for more information. ***(NMC)***

MHS calendar of events

Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Day (no classes)

For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

2008 MLK Day schedule of events

The African-American Cultural Preservation Committee announces the 2nd Annual MLK Day Commemoration Program and its annual Civil Right-era "Mini-March."

"The traditional Civil Rights-era mini-march has continued to grow in popularity and size each year. And we remain optimistic that the community will take this opportunity and invitation to join this year's program – activities and 'Let Freedom Ring in the Pacific,'" said Joe Hill, AACPC president.

This year's theme is "The Civil Rights Movement and the Pacific Way."

"It is fitting to reflect on and be mindful that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. stood for and symbolizes nonviolence, peace and justice regardless of social, economic, religious or national origin," Hill said.

The schedule of events, forum, student speech contest, mini-march and other activities are designed as educational tools, open to all who value King's tenets of non-violent, positive social change.

The AACPC's 2008 schedule of events:

1.) Student speech/essay competition ongoing

2.) MLK Day basketball tournament

Ada Gym, Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, begin 10am; Registration deadline Jan. 19, 2008. Contact Willie B. 898-5901/256-0615, Joe 234-6806

3.) Down home Southern soul food dinner:

Menu:
- Blackeyed peas
- Corn Bread
- Ham Hocks
- Collard Greens
- Fried chicken or baked, broiled, or boiled
- Potato Salad
- Baked Beans
- Sweet Potato Pie
- Cake
- Peach Cobbler

Dine in or take out $12.50 per plate, includes one soft drink or water.

MLK Day event t-shirts $15 each

Combination Dinner and t-shirt $23.50

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008, 6:30pm

Location: Bud's Bar

4.) Forum: "Why and how the tenets of the civil rights struggle, as personified by Dr. King, are pertinent here in the Mariana Islands."

Location: Visitor's Center, American Memorial Park, Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, 1pm to 2:30pm

Featured panelists: Sen. Maria "Frica" T. Pangelinan, Rep. Tina Sablan; special guest Dr. Kathryn Takara, Professor, Ethnic studies, University of Hawaii; Rep. Edward T. Salas, and others.

Moderators: Dr. Peter Eche.

5.) 2:30pm – 3pm March Orientation/assembly

American Memorial Park, Parking area

6.) 3pm – 4pm Mini March

7.) 7pm – 6pm Keynote program

Dr. Kathryn Takara, Professor, University

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Divided it stands

For all the hand-wringing among Democrats about the tough choices the party's voters are facing in their selection of a presidential nominee, it's nothing compared to the troubles Republicans are creating for themselves this year. On that side of the aisle, three contests, including this week's primary in Michigan, have yielded three very different winners, with no sign of a uniter anywhere on the horizon.

In one sense, the current campaigns reflect an unmistakable shift that occurred in American politics during the late 20th century. Once it was the Democrats whose big tent accommodated uncomfortable allies: Southern segregationists and civil rights leaders, defense hawks and doves, conservative construction unions and liberal service labor groups, earthy populists and refined academics. All of that made for fractious politics and often produced nominees who won the party's backing by bringing out one element of its base while antagonizing another. It also often doomed the nominee in the general election (think George McGovern).

Today, for all their differences, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Barack Obama and John Edwards emerge from a generally cohesive base. They embrace civil rights and want to bring an end to the Iraq war; they see a role for the government in combating poverty and protecting the environment. They represent, in short, a political party.

Then there are the Republicans. It is inconceivable to imagine Mike Huckabee's followers—those willing to back a candidate who's unsure about evolution—switching to Rudolph W. Giuliani, who's been through a couple of divorces and mildly supports abortion rights. It's equally hard to see supporters of John McCain, who has made a principled defense of immigration reform, jumping to Mitt Romney, whose demagogic attacks on illegal immigrants are part of his effort to convince conservatives he's with them despite a record as governor of Massachusetts that suggests otherwise.

The Republican Party's conflicting constituencies—chamber of commerce moderates and religious conservatives, those threatened by illegal immigration and those who are moved by the humanity of those same immigrants, libertarians who want the scope of government reduced and zealots who want government to ban abortion and regulate marriage—are tearing its field apart in 2008. Democrats may be fretting—they do have a tendency to worry—but it is Republicans who now command a party without focus or cohering principles.

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ACME POLLING
"WOULD YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE: 'VERY,' 'SOMEWHAT,' OR 'NOT AT ALL' SURPRISED AT HOW WILDLY INACCURATE OUR NEW HAMPSHIRE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY POLLS WERE...?"

Dying Suharto still holds sway over Indonesians

By JEREMY WAGSTAFF
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Wagstaff, a former reporter for Reuters and the Wall Street Journal in Asia, is writing a book on the fall of Suharto.

The island of Java holds a peculiar spiritual power among Indonesians, and the man who wielded it best is now holding the country in his thrall, even as he slips in and out of consciousness.

Suharto rose to power as a general, on the back of a murky attempted coup in 1965 that he might have had prior knowledge of. That night, he visited his hospitalized son and spent the rest of the dark hours either at home or at a nearby river as his fellow generals were murdered. His disposal of the president, Sukarno, on the night of March 11, 1966, was also conducted at arm's length, a trio of officers dispatched to force the president into ceding control as Suharto nursed a rare cold at home.

Suharto took power as a general, but his authority, his right to rule, had its roots in kebatinan—the mysticism of Java. It's that mysticism, many Javanese believe, that is now prolonging his passing. "Medically, he should be dead," one Javanese told me. "Spiritually, he is still alive."

His battle against death, or his efforts to embrace it—it's far from clear which—holds national attention in a way that Suharto hasn't since he stepped down in disgrace nine years ago. Though he was careful to bury his beliefs beneath a layer of self-deprecating humor and, later, one of Islamic devotion, Suharto believed that he had been given the mandate to rule via his wife, Siti Hartinah, popularly known as Ibu Tien. As minor Javanese royalty, it was she who carried the wahyu—divine mandate—and she, at least in the early years, who had been assiduous in fostering it. After all, she had decided to marry him only after having a dream in which she was told he was on a mission from God.

Suharto, his wife and his mystical advisers, or dukun, had done all they could to buff his credentials as a man worthy of the wahyu. When he could, Suharto would slip away from Jakarta to spots around Java where two rivers merged, points considered holy for their twin sources of energy. There he would pray, bathe himself in incense, dress in clean clothes and then inch into the water toward the point at which he could feel the different temperatures as the two rivers met. When he was in central Java, he would visit Mangadeg, the foothill where his wife's ancestors were buried and where his final resting place awaits.

His two dukun, meanwhile, would scour the country for pusaka—sacred heirlooms—that they believed would give Suharto the power to overcome Sukarno. A room in Suharto's modest Menteng home was filled with these artifacts, including Javanese knives, shields and sacred flowers. One of the most important was a wooden mask depicting the face of Gadjah Mada, the 14th-century prime minister who was effectively more powerful than the Majapahit kings he served. Suharto's advisers retrieved the mask after much searching, praying and the cajoling of its guardian in a Bali temple. A special plane secretly carried the mask to Jakarta; a few months later, fortified by the possession of his pusaka, Suharto removed Sukarno as president and took the title for himself.

It is these pusaka that many Javanese believe are keeping Suharto alive. The pusaka, they say, have been absorbed into his body and must now be removed; any still in the family's possession must be returned. In a land where the insertion of charm needles, or susuk, under the skin to enhance beauty, health or charisma is still commonplace, this is not a surprising belief. One paranormal practitioner was quoted by the news Web site detik.com as saying that spiritually, Suharto must undertake a cleansing ritual to revoke all the power and mystical skills he has.

Still, a dilemma remains. The dukun who helped Suharto to power in the 1960s are long since dead, leaving no one with the skill and knowledge required to perform this ritual. And Suharto's wife, one as well-versed in mysticism as they, died in 1996. So Suharto lives on. Not all Indonesians, including those close to Suharto, believe in kebatinan. Not all believe that it is keeping him alive. But when I asked one Javanese whether he did, he said: "I believe that if half of the Javanese people believe it, then it's true." It's a fitting end for a man who was as adept at marshaling the power of the gun as he was of the power of the spirits.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Sexism, racism: Which is more taboo?

By DAVID CRARY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

Expressions of sexism and racism emerging from the contest between Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama have been blatant, subtle and perhaps sometimes imagined, and they are renewing the national debate over what is and isn't acceptable to say in public.

Clinton's camp has perceived sexism in comments about her appearance and emotions. Supporters of Obama have complained about racial overtones in remarks about his Muslim-sounding middle name, Hussein, and his acknowledged drug use as a young man.

Beyond the back-and-forth between a white woman and a black man seeking the Democratic presidential nominaton, the situation has created a snapshot of the nation's sensitivity—or lack thereof—to certain kinds of comments. Is it more acceptable, for instance, to make a sexist remark than a racist remark?

"It's always been easier," says Marie Wilson, president of the White House Project, which encourages women's advancement in politics. "With women, you can get away with it.

"With race, you can hardly say anything."

Feminist leader Gloria Steinem, argued in a *New York Times* oped last week that gender is "probably the most restricting force in American life"—more so than race.

But others involved in politics suggest the situation is more complex and that both race and gender are used to discriminate against people.

Yvonne Scruggs-Leftwich, a board member of the Black Leadership Forum, said that as a black woman she has experienced both racism and sexism, and suggested there was little point in ranking them.

"In parts of the country, the racist terms fall just as easily off the lips as they always did," she said. "And there are also places that I can't go because I am a woman, and that bothers me just as much."

Kim Gandy, president of the National Organization for Women, said sexist and racist expressions both remain all too common in public discourse, though she said the racism often may be "somewhat coded."

"There's an awful lot of explicit sexist stuff," she said.

Certainly, Clinton's gender has been the spark for criticism, verbal and otherwise, of a sort that Obama has avoided. Available on the Internet are a Hillary nutcracker (the Clinton-like figure cracks nuts between her legs) and a Hillary toilet brush (the sales pitch: "You can have Hillary Clinton as your 'First Cleaning Lady.'")

Clinton's wardrobe, figure, hairdo—even her laugh—have generated detailed and often unflattering commentary.

Radio host Rush Limbaugh said of her: "Will this country want to actually watch a woman get older before their eyes on a daily basis?" Chris Matthews, host of "Hardball" on MSNBC, has been accused of repeated sexist remarks about Clinton and other female politicians. For example, Matthews suggested that when female politicians deliver a fiery speech, "it can grate on some men when they listen to it—fingernails on a blackboard."

There was sharp criticism of a TV ad run in 2006 by the Republican National Committee, in which a flirtatious blonde invited Harold Ford Jr., a black Senate candidate in Tennessee, to "call me." A white GOP candidate in Virginia, Sen. George Allen, stumbled in his campaign for re-election when he referred to one of his rival's volunteers, a man of Indian descent, as "macaca."

Asked about the complaints, Matthews told The Associated Press he personally likes Clinton and also likes the fact that "Hardball" generates controversy.

Gandy, however, sees an injurious double-standard.

"The focus on the clothes and the figure and the hairdo—not only are they not used with male candidates, they're used to trivialize Hillary Clinton," Gandy said.

On the racial front, some of the more blatant incidents in recent years did not involve Obama.

There was sharp criticism of a TV ad run in 2006 by the Republican National Committee, in which a flirtatious blonde invited Harold Ford Jr., a black Senate candidate in Tennessee, to "call me." A white GOP candidate in Virginia, Sen. George Allen, stumbled in his campaign for re-election when he referred to one of his rival's volunteers, a man of Indian descent, as "macaca."

For Obama, the issue of racism was raised a year ago when Sen. Joe Biden described the Illinois senator as "clean" and "articulate," then sought to clarify that he meant no disrespect to other blacks.

Since then, though, there has been little overt racism directed at Obama that has percolated into the public domain. Most of the debate has been more nuanced—such as whether there was a racial context to Clinton supporters' references to Obama's acknowledged teenage use of cocaine. There was brief umbrage by some Obama backers over New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's recent use of the term "shuck and jive" but Cuomo's aides circulated a transcript indicating he was talking generally about candidates' evasions, not about Obama in particular.

Limbaugh was criticized last year for playing a parody song on his show entitled "Barack the Magic Negro." But Obama himself drew praise from Limbaugh for laughing off the song and saying he didn't mind people poking fun at him.

Charles Ellison, senior adviser to the University of Denver's Center for African-American Policy, said Obama is benefiting from a pop-culture groundswell—epitomized by the black U.S. president on the hit TV series "24"—that has made the idea of a real-life black president seem appealing.

"The concept of a black president has overtaken the concept of a woman president," Ellison said. "It's very fresh and recent. We've been talking about trying to get a woman president for some time."

However, Ellison said Obama still faces challenges in handling gender and race.

"As a black man, he must be careful not to appear too hostile toward a white woman," Ellison said. "That dynamic has always been there, and I think he is rather aware of it."

Bruce Gordon, former president of the NAACP, said any suggestion that sexism had become a more oppressive bias than racism is "a huge overstatement."

Both are alive and well, he said, "but it would be disappointing if in the course of this campaign the attention of the voting public shifts to gender and race instead of dealing with the substantive issues."

Letters to the Editor

Hodges' distortions are shameful

H.R. 3079, the federalization bill now pending in the U.S. Senate, does indeed deport every single foreign worker from the Commonwealth. That bill is awaiting action by a Senate that doesn't know much about the Commonwealth and, for that reason, may pass the bill. Let's make this clear: EVERY FOREIGN WORKER IN THE COMMONWEALTH WILL BE DEPORTED WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF PASSAGE OF THE FEDERALIZATION BILL. There are no exceptions. It is possible, as Pete A. says, that there will be an extension of another five years. But the Marianas will have no say in that. It is the intent of the federalization bill, and those like Mr. Hodges who support it, to deport every single foreign worker, bar none, from the Marianas.

The new Commonwealth labor law, P.L. 15-108, welcomes foreign workers, as the Commonwealth always has, and improves their working conditions and protections to a standard virtually unmatched anywhere else in the world. Tell me, where in the world do foreign workers get guaranteed medical coverage? Nowhere. And where in the world do foreign workers get bonded protection that their wages will be paid? Nowhere. One could go on and on. Mr. Hodges' comparison to Hitler is despicable!

And let's look at the treatment of minors. Mr. Hodges is once again not only wrong, but so terribly wrong that one has to conclude his efforts are deliberate propaganda to slander the U.S. citizens who are of Chamorro and Carolinian heritage. What do you suppose Mr. Hodges is doing in the classroom? Maybe we need parent monitors in his classroom to be sure nothing like this unfounded hateful propaganda is going on there.

Here's the deal. Under H.R. 3079, the federalization law, when all foreign workers are deported, all U.S. citizen children will likely go with them unless they have U.S. citizen or permanent relative residents in the U.S. somewhere. Under U.S. law, when a foreign worker is forced to leave, he or she may petition the U.S. immigration officials for what they call "cancellation of removal" but the foreign worker will have to show "exceptional and extremely unusual hardship" to their U.S. citizen son or daughter. It is very difficult to meet this standard. (See, for example, the decision in In re Ariadna Gonzalez Recinas, et al., Respondent, file A75 696 573 (Los Angeles), decided Sept. 19, 2002, by the Board of Immigration Appeals.) If the foreign worker has any relatives or any resources in their home country, or any capacity to earn a living there, however small, the U.S. will not allow them to stay, no matter what hardship may occur to their U.S. citizen children from the move to the home country.

Under PL 15-108, the Commonwealth labor law, foreign workers will be required to leave the Commonwealth only for 60 days, once every three years, if the foreign worker is an employee of a qualifying employer and for six months, once every three years, if the foreign worker is an employee of a non-qualifying employer. If a foreign worker meets this periodic exit requirement (perhaps during the children's summer school vacation), the foreign worker can remain in the Commonwealth for as long as they are employed.

The new labor law is now in effect. I urge Mr. Hodges to take the time to read it, as he has obviously not done. The regulations under the new law will come into effect on Feb. 1, 2008. Similarly, I urge Mr. Hodges to read the regulations as they apply to the periodic exit. Anyone can see that the Commonwealth law is quite generous, especially compared to U.S. law. Nothing in PL 15-108 deprives any foreign worker of any aspect of belonging in the community. That is certainly more than one can say for "federalization" which has, from the beginning, divided the community, pitted foreign workers against U.S. citizens, and generally aroused negative feelings on both sides. Shame on Mr. Hodges and equal shame on federal officials who told foreign workers that "federalization" would benefit them.

Cinta M. Kaipat
Author of PL 15-108

With honor, dignity and humanity

I have a bias that I will admit and make public before writing further. I believe unequivocally, absolutely and unabashedly in fairness, compassion for the aspirations of my fellow man, human dignity and the ideal and the right of every person, not only native born and naturalized American citizens, "to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." And to borrow a somewhat more prosaic, but no less noble, additional notion, I also believe in the necessity in the CNMI for "truth, justice and the American way."

Having said that as a prelude, I want to commend Ron Hodges with the highest degree of praise and admiration for his latest writing, Chamberonomics XXX, and for his continuing boldness, and outspoken correctness, in openly confronting and opposing the unjust social inequities that were exacerbated by the misguided, possibly even evil, doings of the expired 15th CNMI Legislature for foisting P.L. 15-108 on the disenfranchised invited guest workers, local businesses and the struggling greater public of the CNMI. And while the 15th CNMI Legislature is a de facto relic of history, the legacy of its Nero-like provincial blindness is to have tainted the political, economic and social climate of the Commonwealth and complicated any potential economic recovery at a time when its aggregate membership should have been, and could have been, engaged in productive problem solving instead of in the phony political maneuvering, empty electioneering and self-serving posturing that characterized much of its two years of impotent twitching.

Accordingly, I join and encourage all those who would call on the newly installed 16th Legislature, with its several fresh faces and at least one new, keen mind in attendance, to confront the challenges facing the Commonwealth with honor, dignity and humanity foremost in their hearts and minds as it seeks morally valid solutions for our daunting social and economic problems. Nothing less is acceptable. Nothing less can serve the common good.

Kenneth Hodson O'Harnett
As Perdido, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy. Isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲83° ▼75°	▲82° ▼76°	▲82° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°	▲83° ▼73°

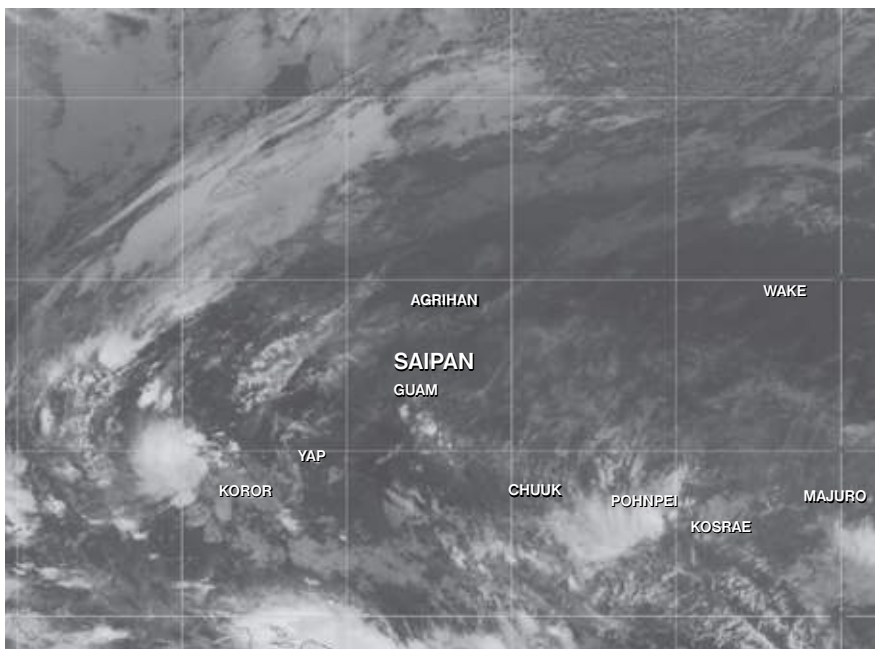
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼68
Beijing	Flurries	▲28	▼21
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲66	▼61
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼69
London	Rain	▲54	▼43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲68	▼46
Manila	Showers	▲84	▼73
Melbourne	Rain	▲73	▼60
Miami	Showers	▲83	▼55
New York	Cloudy	▲38	▼19
Osaka	Cloudy	▲41	▼30
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼44
Pusan	Cloudy	▲48	▼39
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼40
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼34
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼41
Seoul	Cloudy	▲33	▼23
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼35
Washington, DC	Rain/Snow	▲39	▼22

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JAN. 18, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from 5N130E to EQ152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring north of the trough axis within 150 miles of a line from 10N130E to 5N137E. This area includes Palau. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N150E to 19N130E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 150 miles northwest of this boundary between 140E and 150E and up to 300 miles northwest of the boundary between 130E and 140E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers across Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 100 miles of a line from 5N155E to 7N162E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:16AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
10:32AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
3:35PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
11:35PM Today	High Tide:	-0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:08PM
Sunday	6:47AM	6:09PM
Monday	6:47AM	6:09PM
Tuesday	6:47AM	6:10PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:10PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:39PM	4:18AM*
Sunday	3:42PM	5:21AM*
Monday	4:48PM	6:19PM*
Tuesday	5:52PM	7:10AM*
Wednesday	6:53PM	7:56AM*

*Following Day

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 12, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Thursday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon
English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 19, 1999

902 talks begin
Crucial meetings under Section 702 of the Covenant open today between the Northern Marianas and the United States with little prospects that the two sides could make progress in closing wide gaps on how problems on local immigration and labor should be resolved. Both sides failed to hammer out a common agenda prior to the opening of the four-day "informal" discussions, and local officials preferred that specific talking points be discussed when they convene this morning at the Hyatt. President Bill Clinton's special representative to the bilateral talks, Edward B. Cohen, suggested in an interview last night that the local government did not oppose Washington's proposal to discuss transition.

NMC seeks scholarship fund boost
The Northern Marianas College yesterday sought assistance from the legislature to funnel more than $500,000 in government funds into a critical scholarship program for some 530 students enrolled this spring semester. College officials met with some members from the Senate and the House of Representatives to lobby for additional money in a bid to shore up the rapidly depleting funds in light of a budget cut implemented by the Tenorio administration for the second quarter. NMC, led by its President Agnes M. McPhetres, expressed concern over a recent decision by the administration not to allocate funds into the program - a move which may imperil the education of close to 530 students attending CNMI's lone higher educational institution.

JANUARY 19, 2000

Teno, legislators forge new partnership
In efforts to enhance working relationship between the two branches of the government, lawmakers met with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday to tackle an array of issues that the Legislature hopes to enact when sessions begin in the next few weeks. Leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives also commenced what they said is a regular weekly meeting aimed at facilitating passage of legislation in each of the two chambers.

Banks may intensify lending
Due to the improving visitor arrival figures and increasing business activity, banking institutions in the island may start relaxing self-imposed restrictions on commercial and consumer loans. The two-year old economic crisis have forced banks to slowdown on giving out loans due to the apparently crippled capabilities of borrowers to pay back. Development Authority Chair John S. Tenorio said commercial banks normally adapt a more cautious, conservative approach on approving loan applications during times when the economy is not doing well.

JANUARY 19, 2001

Ichihara is Borja's lieutenant governor
After months of searching for a running mate in the November elections, Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate Jesse C. Borja yesterday announced that educator Brigida DLG Ichihara has been chosen by the party's credentials committee to run for lt. governor. Borja said the long and impressive record of Ichihara as an educator will prove her capability to handle the job. "My running mate is exceptionally qualified to be the candidate for lieutenant governor."

Pro-life advocates to march against abortion
A least 1,500 members of various organizations, students and Church leaders are expected to participate in a prayer vigil on Sunday to strongly oppose abortion practices on the island. The Christians for Life, a group of Churches and organizations in the Commonwealth have established themselves to speak out for the unborn, following recent reports on continued increase of abortion-related activities in various areas of the CNMI. Rev. Raymond Kinsela, who heads the organization, said the group hopes that the community will take a united stand against abortion and join the prayer vigil which will be held at the American Memorial Park at 6:00pm on January 21.

Business

Tax rebates seen to save economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—United for urgent action, the White House and Congress raced toward emergency steps Thursday to rescue the national economy from a possible recession, including tax rebates of $300 or more for many Americans.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke endorsed the idea of putting money into the hands of those who would spend it quickly and boost the flagging economy.

The sudden scramble to take action came as fears mounted that a severe housing slump and a painful credit crisis could cause people to clamp down on their spending and businesses to put a lid on hiring, throwing the country into its first recession since 2001.

President Bush told congressional leaders privately he favors income tax rebates for people and tax breaks for businesses, officials said. Bush spoke with congressional leaders as House aides worked behind the scenes on an emergency package that could also include more money for food stamp recipients and the unemployed.

Data lost on 650K credit card holders

PLANO, Texas (AP)—Personal information on about 650,000 customers of J.C. Penney and up to 100 other retailers could be compromised after a computer tape went missing. GE Money, which handles credit card operations for Penney and many other retailers, said Thursday night that the missing information includes Social Security numbers for about 150,000 people.

The information was on a backup computer tape that was discovered missing last October. It was being stored at a warehouse run by Iron Mountain Inc., a data storage company, and was never checked out but can't be found either, said Richard C. Jones, a spokesman for GE Money, part of General Electric Capital Corp.

Jones said there was "no indication of theft or anything of that sort," and no evidence of fraudulent activity on the accounts involved.

Iron Mountain spokesman Dan O'Neill said it would take specialized skills for someone to glean the personal data from the tape. He said the company regretted losing the tape, "but because of the volume of information we handle and the fact people are involved, we have occasionally made mistakes."

Merrill Lynch posts steep 4Q loss

NEW YORK (AP)—John Thain, presiding over his first set of earnings on Thursday as the new leader of Merrill Lynch & Co., cleared the decks with some $15 billion of subprime mortgage related write-downs that led to the largest quarterly loss since the brokerage was founded 94 years ago.

And, while it was among the most aggressive moves on Wall Street to deal with bad bets on subprime mortgages, Thain's still not ready to say the worst of the credit crisis is over.

With a possible recession looming, the world's largest brokerage and other Wall Street investment houses might still be saddled with unforeseen turmoil. While taking steps to minimize future disruptions, Thain is still wary about challenges that face the global financial markets.

"We will continue to take risks—you don't make money if you don't take risk," Thain said. "But the risk will be sized appropriate for the business. Nobody should be taking risks that wipe out the entire annual earnings of a business, and certainly not the entire firm."

Stocks extend plunge; Dow falls 306

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street extended its 2008 plunge Thursday, sending the Dow Jones industrials down 306 points and to their lowest level since last March after a regional Federal Reserve report showed a sharp and unexpected decline in manufacturing activity. Downgrades of key bond insurance companies added to the market's black mood, with investors fearing an escalation of months of credit market problems.

The Dow lost nearly 2.5 percent, giving the index its worst three-day percentage decline since October 2002. The Standard & Poor's 500, the index closely watched by market professionals, fell nearly 3 percent Thursday. The Dow, S&P 500 and the Nasdaq composite index have now given back all of the gains they achieved in 2007.

Stocks opened higher but quickly gave up their gains after the Philadelphia Federal Reserve said its survey of regional manufacturing activity registered a negative 20.9 from a revised reading of negative 1.6 in December.

Nation

Chertoff: Tougher ID rules for borders

WASHINGTON (AP)—New border-crossing rules that take effect in two weeks will mean longer lines and stiffer demands for ID, including for returning Americans, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said Thursday.

A driver's license won't be good enough to get you past a checkpoint at the Canadian border, Chertoff said. That will be a surprise to many people who routinely cross the border, but Chertoff bristled at criticism that such extra security would be inconvenient. More than 800,000 people enter the US through land and sea ports each day.

"It's time to grow up and recognize that if we're serious about this threat, we've got to take reasonable, measured but nevertheless determined steps to getting better security," he said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Thousands of people enter the U.S. through land crossings everyday. The biggest effect of the change will be at the Canadian border since it applies to both Canadians and Americans. Non-Americans coming in through Mexico already need extra documentation.

Congressional critics representing Northern border states were anything but impressed with Chertoff's rhetoric.

His department has proved incapable of implementing a 2004 law on border security, and Chertoff "frankly has as much credibility on telling people to 'grow up' as Geoffrey the Giraffe," said Rep. Tom Reynolds, a Buffalo-area Republican.

Added Sen. Norm Coleman, a Minnesota Republican, "Secretary Chertoff's comments that those objecting to the plan need to 'grow up' indicates that the department still doesn't understand the practical effects of DHS policies on the everyday lives of border community residents."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, Democratic chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the move does nothing to enhance security and will only hurt the economy. "When it comes to the Northern Border, the muddled thinking and poor planning at DHS seems to have no bounds, and the agency that botched Katrina seems to have no shame and no memory to boot," Leahy said.

Under the new system, which takes effect Jan. 31, Americans and Canadians who are 19 or older will have to present proof of citizenship when they seek to enter the United States through a land or sea port of entry. A passport will be fine. Or a birth certificate coupled with some other ID such as a driver's license.

Chertoff said he had been surprised to learn that simply stating "I am an American" and showing an ID card has been sufficient to get back into the country. "I don't think in this day and age we can afford the honor system for entering the United States," he said. "Regrettably, we live in a world in which people lie sometimes about their identity."

Report: U.S. abortions decline

NEW YORK (AP)—The number of abortions in the United States dropped to 1.2 million in 2005, the lowest level since 1974 and down 25 percent from the all-time high of 1.6 million in 1990, according to report issued Thursday.

The Guttmacher Institute, which surveyed abortion providers nationwide, said there likely were several reasons for the decline, including more effective use of contraceptives, lower levels of unintended pregnancy and greater difficulty obtaining abortions in some parts of the country.

The institute's president, Sharon Camp, noted that despite the decline, more than one in five pregnancies ended in abortion in 2005.

"Our policymakers at the state and federal levels need to understand that behind virtually every abortion is an unintended pregnancy, so we must redouble our efforts towards prevention, through better access to contraception," Camp said.

The Guttmacher Institute supports abortion rights, yet both sides in the debate on the issue consider its abortion surveys the most comprehensive in the United States because they encompass California, the most populous state. California state agencies do not collect abortion data to contribute to federal surveys.

SNOWY DAY
A man snow plows his driveway along Rosecrans Street in Wausau, Wis., on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008, during a heavy snow storm. Snow fell across much of Wisconsin on Thursday, turning roads sloppy and canceling classes at some schools.
AP

Army panel seeks brain injury studies

WASHINGTON (AP)—As many as 20 percent of U.S. troops leave war with signs they may have had a concussion, and some do not realize they need treatment, Army officials said Thursday. Concussion is a common term for mild traumatic brain injury, or TBI. While the Army has a handle on treating more severe brain injuries, it is "challenged to understand, diagnose and treat military personnel who suffer with mild TBI," said Brig. Gen. Donald Bradshaw, chairman of a task force on traumatic brain injury created by the Army surgeon general.

The task force, which completed its work in May, released its findings on Thursday.

It estimated that from 10 percent to 20 percent of soldiers and Marines leaving Iraq and Afghanistan are affected by mild traumatic brain injury. The most common cause was blast from an explosion.

Cops: Child thrown to death on freeway

HONOLULU (AP)—A man wearing hospital scrubs threw a toddler 30 feet from a pedestrian overpass onto a major highway Thursday, and the boy was later pronounced dead, authorities said.

A 23-year-old man was arrested after witnesses saw him throwing something, followed him and called police, officials said.

One or two vehicles may have struck the 2 1/2-year-old boy, but it was unclear exactly what killed him, The Honolulu Advertiser reported.

A white sheet covered the body on the westbound lanes of the H-1 freeway, a major route through downtown that police temporarily closed. The scene was just blocks from the Capitol and the governor's mansion.

The man was taken to the Honolulu police station and then to a hospital, said police spokeswoman Michelle Yu. She didn't know whether the man had a history of mental illness or a criminal record.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Victim drunk during tiger attack

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—One of the three victims of San Francisco Zoo tiger attack was intoxicated and admitted to yelling and waving at the animal while standing atop the railing of the big cat enclosure, police said in court documents filed Thursday. Paul Dhaliwal, 19, told the father of Carlos Sousa Jr., 17, who was killed, that the three yelled and waved at the tiger but insisted they never threw anything into its pen to provoke the cat, according to a search warrant affidavit obtained by the San Francisco Chronicle. "As a result of this investigation, (police believe) that the tiger may have been taunted/agitated by its eventual victims," according to Inspector Valerie Matthews, who prepared the affidavit.

NO suburb hopes $97M winner's a local

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Residents were abuzz Thursday over the chance that a local—maybe someone who helped fix some of what Hurricane Katrina and the looters did—is the person sitting on a $97 million Powerball ticket. "I hope it's someone from the neighborhood," said Mauricio Diaz, the longtime owner of the suburban Metairie gas station that sold the winning ticket in Wednesday's jackpot, the state's biggest ever. No one had come forward to claim the prize, lottery officials said, but Diaz said his store caters mainly to locals.

Conn. baby sitter charged with murder

ELLINGTON, Conn. (AP)—Julie Adkins-Gasque never worried when her 1-year-old son sported a fresh bruise. He just played rough with the baby sitter's son, she thought. Yet there was the working mom on Thursday, burying her boy, Elijah Gasque, in a freezing graveyard and trying to understand how he wound up with a fractured skull in the care of the 25-year-old sitter, Yalines Torres. A judge in Hartford arraigned Torres on a murder charge Thursday and set her bail at $1 million. Authorities allege the child died last weekend after his head smacked a door frame as she ran around with him slung over her shoulder in a sleeping bag.

Marine's wife waited to report death

JACKSONVILLE, N.C. (AP)—The wife of the key suspect in the slaying of a 20-year-old pregnant Marine waited almost 24 hours after learning of the woman's death to go to authorities, according to court documents released Thursday. The sheriff's affidavit, which details the account Cpl. Cesar Armando Laurean's wife gave to detectives, does not provide an explanation for why she waited. Police have consistently described her as a cooperating witness, and she does not face charges. Laurean told his wife, Christina, while driving to their attorney's office last Thursday that Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach visited the couple's home on Dec. 15, demanded money and told him she planned to leave the area, according the affidavit.

San Diego hillside gives way—again

SAN DIEGO (AP)—An unstable chunk of hillside in an upscale neighborhood slipped another several feet Thursday afternoon, sliding into houses already damaged from a previous collapse. There were no reports of injuries in the new slide, which came as workers were about to attempt repairs. The city has been trying to stabilize the street of million-dollar homes in the La Jolla area since a collapse in October sent a 200-foot section of earth 20 feet downhill. Workers were preparing to drive giant steel pins into the toe of the slide zone when the land began to shift again.

Asia

Blast at Pakistan Shiite mosque kills 9

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected Sunni extremist opened fire in a Shiite mosque Thursday and then blew himself up, killing nine people on the eve of a religious festival that has been scarred by sectarian violence in the past.

The blast in northwestern Pakistan wounded at least 20 people including a prominent Shiite cleric, adding to tensions in the country as it prepares for parliamentary elections Feb. 18 that many predict will weaken President Pervez Musharraf's grip on power.

Suspected Islamic militants have launched a wave of suicide attacks against security forces and politicians in recent months, killing at least 400 people including opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, a secular politician who had vowed to battle the militants.

Arshad Ali, whose brother died in Thursday's blast, said the attacker was a man about 18 years old who walked into the crowded Imambargah Qasim Baig mosque, opened fire with a pistol and then blew himself up.

"People present there tried to stop him," Ali said, wailing and beating his chest in grief. "He took out a pistol, shot three times and then blew himself up."

It was not immediately clear whether any of the dead or wounded were hit by the gunfire.

Peshawar police chief Tanvir Sipra said nine people were killed, including a policeman who tried to stop the bomber from entering the mosque. A few policewomen were wounded, he said.

Prominent Shiite cleric Syed Rza Shah, who was wounded in the attack, had traveled to Peshawar from Rawalpindi to address a gathering at the mosque, said Mohammed Iqbal, another police official. Shah's deputy, Kalb-e-Abbas, was among the dead.

Sri Lankan jets destroy rebel hideout

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lanka's military said air force jets destroyed a hideout used by senior Tamil Tiger rebels Thursday and soldiers captured a strategic stretch of road in a battle that left nine insurgents dead.

The offensives came a day after suspected insurgents killed 27 people in an attack on a civilian bus, an assault that coincided with the government formally ending a cease-fire that had been largely ignored in recent years.

Air force jets bombed a rebel hideout near Kilinochchi, the insurgents' de facto capital, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

He said top rebel officials used the compound, but did not know who was there at the time of the attack. The pro-rebel TamilNet Web site said the jets had struck a civilian area and seven people had been wounded.

However, Nanayakkara said the military had no reason to target a civilian settlement.

"It was definitely an LTTE leaders' camp. They won't let civilians settle in that area," he said, referring to the rebels by the initials of their formal name, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The military also said it captured a strategic stretch of road in northern Mannar district Wednesday after a battle that killed nine rebels. Commandoes then advanced into rebel territory in Mannar and destroyed a bunker, killing four female rebels, Nanayakkara said.

US presses China on Iran sanctions

BEIJING (AP)—U.S. and Iranian envoys lobbied China on Thursday over proposed new sanctions on Tehran's nuclear program, underscoring Beijing's key role in determining U.N. involvement in the dispute.

Visiting U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte urged China to back proposed new U.N. measures aimed at convincing Iran to reveal more about its nuclear program, insisting that its alleged uranium enrichment and missile development programs remain a threat.

China has repeatedly opposed new measures. Underscoring the difficulty of his mission, Negroponte's comments in Beijing coincided with a visit by Iran's senior nuclear negotiator, Saeed Jalili.

The hard-line Jalili, who replaced moderate Ali Larijani in October, met with Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to discuss bilateral ties and the nuclear issue, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

The diplomatic tug of war illustrates the importance of China, one of five veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council, in resolving the dispute.

Washington says Iran's nuclear program aims to produce atomic weapons, which Tehran has repeatedly denied.

Energy-hungry China, which has extensive business interests in Iran, supported earlier U.N. resolutions against Tehran, but has sided with Russia in opposing a new sanctions resolution being sought by Washington and its allies, instead calling for more intensive negotiations.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Bhutan elections set for March 24

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Bhutan will hold its first democratic elections in March, the latest step in the transformation of the Himalayan nation where Buddhist kings reigned supreme. The secluded and mountainous country has long been known as a quirky holdout from modernity, letting in few visitors and banning television and smoking. But much has changed in recent years—television, for example, was introduced in 1999—and the election announced Thursday is the latest step in Bhutan's transformation. For the average Bhutanese, many of whom view the monarchy and its attachment to tradition with affection, the vote has been greeted with a mix of enthusiasm and foreboding.

Myanmar newspaper irks censors

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A weekly newspaper in military-ruled Myanmar skipped publication Thursday on government orders after flouting censorship rules, its publisher said. The government's Press Scrutiny Board ordered the Myanmar-language edition of the Myanmar Times not to publish this week for having run a story earlier that was not approved, said Ross Dunkley, editor in chief and CEO of Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd. The story, from the news agency Agence France-Presse, was about a huge increase in Myanmar's annual license fee for using satellite TV dishes.

Westerners worry about security in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The deadly Taliban attack on a luxury hotel in Kabul was barely a blip on the radar of Afghans hardened to repeated bombings, but it has rattled the nerves of expatriate Westerners. A few foreigners have already left; others are questioning whether it's too risky to work in Afghanistan because they could be targeted by militants seeking to undermine the U.S.-backed government. This week's attack on the Serena Hotel was the first major strike at foreign civilians in the Afghan capital, and it was followed by a Taliban threat against restaurants favored by foreigners. The impact was immediate for businesses serving expatriates—thought to number between 2,000 and 4,000, almost all working for aid agencies or diplomatic missions.

World

Could US, Iran stumble into war?

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Just how close might a military confrontation between Iran and the United States be?

Though a war of words eased a bit recently, President Bush's strong Iran warnings during his just completed Mideast trip, coupled with a ship standoff, are raising fears that a small incident could someday spiral—even by accident—into a real fight.

Iran's hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused Bush Thursday of sending "a message of confrontation" during his trip to the region. It was a sharp response to Bush's tough rhetoric that Iran remains a serious threat.

Tensions slackened somewhat late last year when a U.S. intelligence report concluded Iran had halted a nuclear weapons program four years ago. But Bush went out of his way while visiting Gulf countries to reiterate that "all options" against Iran remain on the table.

Pointedly, he also warned of "serious consequences" if Iran attacked a U.S. ship in the Gulf, even if it had not been ordered by the Tehran government but was the result of a rash decision by an Iranian boat captain.

At the same time, Bush said he has told leaders of Sunni Arab states—who want the U.S. to keep Shiite Iran's ambitions in check but are nervous about the impact of any military confrontation—that he wants a diplomatic solution.

In part, the president seemed to be trying to assure both Arab allies and Israel that the United States remains intent on pressuring Iran. He also seeks reluctant European support for another round of Iran sanctions.

Suicide bomber targets Iraqi Shiites

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber struck Shiites as worshippers prepared Thursday for their most important holiday, killing at least 11 at a mosque in violent Diyala province—one day after a similar attack by a woman in a nearby village.

Police and eyewitnesses said one of the victims had intercepted the bomber when he saw him making his way through the crowd. "Stranger, stranger," he shouted as he grabbed the bomber, who instantly detonated the blast.

A spike in bombings in recent weeks is chipping away at security gains made over the past six months, when levels of violence dropped nationwide. Many of the attacks have targeted Sunnis who have turned against the main insurgent group, al-Qaida in Iraq.

Jetliner crashes at Heathrow; 19 hurt

LONDON (AP)—A British Airways jet from Beijing carrying 152 people crash-landed Thursday, injuring 19 people and causing more than 200 flights to be canceled at Europe's busiest airport.

Investigators will speak to the pilots and study the plane's flight data recorder and maintenance records to determine what caused the crash-landing at Heathrow airport, tearing the plane's underbelly and damaging its wings.

Nothing suggested it was terror-related, Scotland Yard said.

Timothy Crowch, an aviation analyst with 35 years of experience as a commercial pilot, said the landing gear punched through both wings, indicating a "massive vertical impact." That suggests a total loss of engine power may have been the cause, he said.

AP

Omar Osama bin Laden, right, and his British wife Jane Felix-Brown, now known as Zaina Alsabah, 52 are seen during an interview with the Associated Press in Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Jan. 11, 2008.

Bin Laden son wants to be peace activist

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Omar Osama bin Laden bears a striking resemblance to his notorious father—except for the dreadlocks that dangle halfway down his back. Then there's the black leather biker jacket.

The 26-year-old does not renounce his father, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, but in an interview with The Associated Press, he said there is better way to defend Islam than militancy: Omar wants to be an "ambassador for peace" between Muslims and the West.

Omar—one of bin Laden's 19 children—raised a tabloid storm last year when he married a 52-year-old British woman, Jane Felix-Browne, who took the name Zaina Alsabah. Now the couple say they want to be advocates, planning a 3,000-mile horse race across North Africa to draw attention to the cause of peace.

"It's about changing the ideas of the Western mind. A lot of people think Arabs—especially the bin Ladens, especially the sons of Osama—are all terrorists. This is not the truth," Omar told the AP last week at a cafe in a Cairo shopping mall.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

RP govt reaching out to OFWs

By DORIS DUMLAO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—Overseas Filipinos workers may get to learn a thing or two about investments when the government embarks on a series of road shows in Hong Kong and Dubai specifically to inform Filipino workers there of the financial opportunities that are within their reach.

State-owned Development Bank of the Philippines starts this Friday a financial literacy program in Hong Kong, where it hopes to brief OFW groups and associations there on the different financial packages tailored to fit their needs.

"This year we're going really big on hedging and livelihood," said Jaime Panganiban, acting chief executive of Al-Amanah Bank and consultant to DBP.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and top officials of the Department of Labor and Employment and Philippine Overseas Employment Agency will join the Hong Kong campaign.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to launch the overall OFW strategy package in Dubai at the end of this month.

Government-owned Land Bank of the Philippines will launch its high yielding peso-denominated deposit products for OFWs in Dubai.

The DBP will also join the Dubai campaign to roll out its remittance, hedging, housing loan and entrepreneurial products for the OFWs and their families.

Panganiban said the DBP had tied up with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PDLT) for the Negosyo-Inet program for OFWs looking for entrepreneurial opportunities.

Using its DSL broadband network, PLDT offers a package for OFWs wishing to put up Internet café stations across the country.

In this OFW strategy, Land Bank is mandated to spearhead the offering of investment instruments with the help of HSBC and DBP, which will focus on offering protection and livelihood products.

The DBP's hedging program refers to financial instruments that will protect holders against the depreciation of the peso.

A hedging instrument offered by the DBP is foreign exchange insurance, an agreement that gives a client the right but not the obligation to sell US dollars at a pre-agreed rate on a specified date (basically a put option).

Multi-agency task force formed to curb illegal recruitment

By TETCH TORRES
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA—A multi-agency task force has been formed to boost government's efforts to curb illegal recruitment in the Philippines.

The government agencies, led by the Department of Justice (DoJ), signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) creating the task force.

The other agencies are the National Prosecution Service (NPS), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

Under the agreement, the DoJ and NPS will act as lead agencies in the prosecution of illegal recruitment and other related cases referred by the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency-Task Force on Illegal Recruitment (POEA-TFIR).

Aside from prosecution, Gonzalez said the task force will extend assistance to overseas Filipino workers having employment problems.

The POEA, meanwhile, will coordinate the task force's activities and provide operational funds. It will also receive and investigate illegal recruitment complaints and reports.

The NBI will be its operating arm.

Aside from Gonzalez, POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimapilis Baldoz, PNP Director General Avelino Razon Jr. and NBI Director Nestor Mantaring signed the agreement.

GMA fires aviation chief

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo fired the country's aviation chief and ordered improvements in air safety standards within three months, after a U.S. aviation watchdog limited U.S.-bound flights by the country's largest carrier.

In a move that threatens to disrupt the tourism industry, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration downgraded the rating of Philippine air operations, citing "serious concerns" about government oversight and a lack of proper legislation regulating the industry.

As a result, Philippine Airlines—the only carrier that flies to America—can continue flying to the United States, but only "under heightened FAA surveillance," the U.S. Embassy said.

Arroyo spokesman Ignacio Bunye insisted Thursday the Philippines has "a very high safety record" and the issues raised by the FAA could be fixed soon.

He said Arroyo fired on Thursday the acting head of the Air Transportation Office, Daniel Dimagiba, and ordered Transport Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who oversees the aviation sector, to improve air safety standards within three months.

The FAA said it downgraded the Philippines to a Category 2 rating—along with countries such as Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Indonesia—because it lacked the laws and regulations necessary for the certification and oversight of air carriers, according to minimum international standards.

PACQUIAO-MARQUEZ SHOWDOWN AP

Juan Manuel Marquez, left, of Mexico, and Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, attend a news conference Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008, in Beverly Hills, Calif., to promote their March 15 WBC super featherweight championship boxing match.

What US inspectors found unsafe

By TARRA QUISMUNDO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—US aviation authorities found even the tiniest safety requirements lacking in the Philippines' civil aviation system, from pencil marks on airmen licensure tests to poor record-keeping.

This led to the decision of the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to flunk the Philippines in its safety audit.

Details of the FAA evaluation of the country's adherence to international safety standards revealed flaws big and small in the operation and administration of the Air Transportation Office, according to records of a meeting between FAA and ATO officials, where the US aviation watchdog agency presented its safety audit findings.

A copy of the minutes of the Nov. 29, 2007, meeting was shown to the Philippine Daily Inquirer by an aviation official.

The ATO is the government agency in charge of ensuring that only airworthy planes and qualified pilots are allowed to take to the skies.

The FAA informed the Philippine government it had "serious concerns" about its oversight of air operations, which the US side says do not comply with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) safety standards.

The decision downgrades the Philippine civil aviation safety rating to Category 2, putting it alongside countries such as Bangladesh, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Indonesia.

It means Philippine carriers can continue flying to the United States but only "under heightened FAA surveillance."

Only one carrier, Philippine Airlines, flies to the US.

? LABOR FRONT

Alien Immigration registration

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Who is responsible for the registration of alien children with the Division of Immigration?

A: Parents and legal guardians of alien children and wards are responsible for the registration of such children and wards that are under 21 years old, according to the CNMI Immigration Regulations.

Any alien who intends to remain in the CNMI for more than 90 days should also register with Immigration within 90 days of their arrival, except as set forth pursuant to the Immigration regulations. Any alien who is issued a renewal of his or her employment or business permit should register within 10 business days after the issuance of the renewal.

■ ■ ■

Q: Is an employer responsible for his or her guest workers' Immigration registration?

A: According to the Immigration Regulations, an employer shall ensure that any alien in his or her employ has registered in accordance with these regulations. An employer's responsibility under this section is in addition to and does not diminish the responsibility of an alien.

■ ■ ■

Q: What is the purpose of the alien registration sticker?

A: The alien registration sticker provides evidence that the alien has complied with the alien registration requirements. The issuance of the alien registration card is not an adjudicatory act determining the legality of the alien's status, according to the Regulations.

No registered alien sticker will be issued until the alien has paid a $25 application processing fee to the CNMI Treasurer. The alien must complete an alien registration application and sign it under penalty of perjury before a registrar.

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Mom rues loss of OFW daughter to insurgent attack in Kabul

By FRANK CIMATU
NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—Herminia's sweet little girl is coming home but it is not the homecoming she wanted for her daughter.

Zennia Aguilan, 31, a physical therapist, was killed with five other people on Monday when armed men stormed the Serena Hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Her 60-year-old mother, Herminia Aguilan, was not sure when her body would be brought home.

"She's short and very sweet," said Herminia, a retired teacher at Saint Mary's School in the tourist town of Sagada in Mt. Province.

"She called regularly and the last time was when she greeted me 'Happy New Year,'" she said by telephone.

Zennia, the fifth of seven children, was still small when her father died.

Her only sister is the eldest and a nurse in the United States so Zennia was her mother's little helper, said her aunt, Mary Padilan.

"She's very loving especially with kids," said her cousin Shirley Lebeng.

"Zennia wanted to help her family and I don't think she had a boyfriend. She always gave us gifts," Lebeng said.

"My daughter is very thoughtful," Herminia said.

Although originally from Agawa village in neighboring Besao town in Mt. Province, Zennia and her siblings had to stay in Sagada to be with their mother.

She finished high school at St. Mary's School and went to college in Dagupan City where she took up physical therapy.

Sagada elders were talking with Herminia about possible rituals as they awaited the body.

Herminia said the last time she saw her daughter was in August 2007 when Zennia was about to leave for Kabul after a vacation in the country.

"She told me to take care," the mother recalled.

Lebeng said Zennia wanted to go back to Kabul. "She liked the job and she liked the pay," Lebeng said.

Zennia returned to Kabul in August, four months before the Department of Foreign Affairs imposed a travel ban to Afghanistan.

Zennia was reportedly paid US$700 a month as spa supervisor at Serena, one of Kabul's popular luxury hotels.

On Monday night, Zennia sustained severe wounds when armed men believed to be Kabul insurgents threw grenades and fired AK-47 as they stormed the hotel.

An American and a Norwegian journalist were among the six killed.

Zennia was taken to a military hospital in critical condition and died Tuesday afternoon.

Both Lebeng and the elder Aguilan said they had no premonition of Zennia's death.

Arroyo: New plot just 'political theatrics'

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Thursday shrugged off an alleged new plot to overthrow her administration as nothing more than "self-indulgent political theatrics."

In a speech before the 5th biennial convention of the Chinese-Filipino Business Club Inc. at Manila Hotel, Ms Arroyo said the business sector and the rest of the country were "tired" of endless destabilization attempts.

"You want political order and security," she said. The President told the CFBCI, which was celebrating its 10th anniversary, that this was what she was determined to maintain to propel the country to First World status in the next 20 years.

She said that failed destabilization plots had also made her administration "stronger."

"Half of our battle in the Philippines is to overcome the self-indulgent political theatrics that send the wrong messages," the President said.

Trailblazing performance

She said that the economic growth the country was now experiencing would be sustained under her watch.

The economy posted 7.1-percent growth in the first three quarters of 2007, a trailblazing performance that the government seeks to sustain and possibly improve on, Ms Arroyo said.

The President pointed out that in 2007, the Philippines made a huge investment in its efforts to join the ranks of First World nations.

"We aim to make sure we keep it that way throughout the duration of my term," she said, adding that the country's economic turnaround was marked by 28 consecutive quarters of growth.

Seven million jobs were created over the last seven years, while business and investors' confidence has been on the upswing, she said.

The Philippine peso has appreciated more than 15 percent since 2006, and is now one of the world's best performing currencies, she added.

10 Filipino nurses facing charges after quitting jobs

By FRANK ELTMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

RIVERHEAD, New York (AP)—For months, the nurses complained that they were subject to demeaning and unfair working conditions—not what they were promised when they came to America from the Philippines in search of a better life. So they abruptly quit.

But in doing so, they put more than their careers at risk: Prosecutors hit them with criminal charges for allegedly jeopardizing the lives of terminally ill children they were in charge of watching.

The 10 nurses and the attorney who advised them were charged with conspiracy and child endangerment in what defense lawyers say is an unprecedented use of criminal law in a labor dispute. If convicted of the misdemeanor offenses, they face up to a year in jail on each of 13 counts, and could lose their nursing licenses and be deported.

The case has unfolded against the backdrop of a chronic nursing shortage in the United States. All of the defendants were from the Philippines, which exported 120,000 nurses last year.

One defendant was a doctor back home and a top scorer on the country's medical board exams, but decided it was more lucrative to be a nurse in the United States. Others had respectable medical jobs back home and viewed their work in New York as a dream come true.

"Coming to the United States is like the fulfillment of your nursing career," said Maria Theresa Ramos, who arrived on Long Island in 2004.

The nurses are backed by several Filipino organizations in the U.S., as well as both the New York and California state nurses associations, which fear prosecuting nurses who quit their jobs could set a bad precedent.

Prosecutors say the nurses' resignations—without notice—on April 7, 2006, jeopardized the lives of children at Avalon Gardens in Smithtown, where some of the patients are on ventilators and required constant monitoring.

None of the patients suffered ill effects, but an indictment alleges the nurses knew their sudden resignations would make it difficult to find replacements. Their trial is scheduled to begin Jan. 28.

The nurses claim that they were sent to work at facilities they never signed up for, and made to perform tasks they deemed demeaning and below their job descriptions. There were also disputes about scheduling and pay. Sixteen other nurses and one physical therapist also walked off the job at other facilities, but they were not charged because they did not care for terminally ill children.

Lawyers for the 10 nurses say one of the nurses remained on-duty when resignation letters were submitted. They insist that the nurse—Ramos—stayed four hours past the scheduled end of her shift to ensure that the patients received proper care.

21 ship fire survivors return

MANILA—Carrying what little they salvaged, Filipino seafarers who survived a ship fire Friday last week while docked in Port Harcourt, Nigeria returned home Thursday afternoon, almost a week since their ordeal in the troubled oil-rich region.

Seventeen of the 21-man all-Filipino crew of oil tanker M/T Golden Lucy flew home from Nigeria at 4:45 p.m. Thursday. Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration welcomed the repatriates at the airport.

Four other seamen, including ship captain Edilon Bagunoc, remain in Port Harcourt to help in the investigation of the incident, their co-workers said.

Then loaded with drums of gasoline, the tanker suddenly caught fire early morning on Friday while docked at Port Harcourt.

"I was on duty at that time. I had just left the front deck for 10 minutes when there a sudden explosion. The fire spread very fast," said Cesar Franco, 52, a seaman for almost 20 years now.

"We tried to do some firefighting ourselves but the fire just got bigger and bigger. The captain then ordered us to abandon ship," he told the Philippine Daily Inquirer at the airport Thursday. .

The crew members then rushed out of the tanker and on to the dock. But apart from running away from the blaze, they had to escape local robbers who tried to seize their belongings amid the chaos. ***(PDI)***

AP

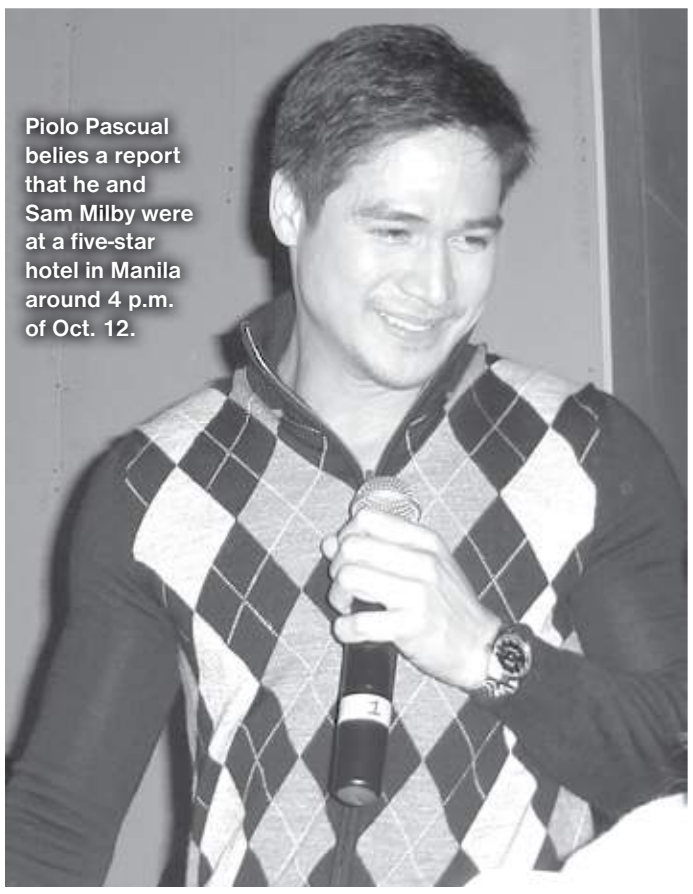
SUMILAO FARMERS
Manila Archbishop Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales gets a hug from a female farmer from Sumilao in southern Philippines as he arrives at a press conference Thursday, Jan. 17, 2007, in Manila. Declaring they cannot wait another minute for Malacañang to make good on its promise to hand over a piece of farmland they are claiming, the Sumilao farmers are back in Manila to retrace their "walk for justice" to recover a 144-hectare property in Bukidnon province. The Catholic Church supports the farmers' call to retain their ownership of farm lands which was converted into a agro-industrial project by a private company.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Piolo, Sam present 11 witnesses in libel case

By Allison Lopez
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—A total of 11 witnesses testified Thursday that actors Piolo Jose Pascual and Samuel "Sam" Milby were not at a five-star hotel in Manila as alleged by entertainment columnist Lolit Solis in a column she wrote for a tabloid.



Piolo Pascual belies a report that he and Sam Milby were at a five-star hotel in Manila around 4 p.m. of Oct. 12.

The witnesses, including three celebrities, a talk-show host, a University of the Philippines professor and a maid, were presented in court in connection with the P12-million libel suit the actors filed against Solis and editor Veronica Samio.

Pascual and Milby brought the witnesses to support their claim that they were not at the hotel and that Solis was trying to insinuate that they were gay.

In her Oct. 15 "Take It, Take It" column in Pilipino Star Ngayon, Solis said she saw the actor-singers acting "sweet" by the poolside of the Sofitel Hotel around 4 p.m. of Oct. 12.

Titled "Piolo at Sam, Hulinghuling Naglalampungan," Solis used the words "kakaiba," (unusual) "sweet," and "halos magkadikit na nga ang mga pisngi" to describe the scene she allegedly saw.

Pascual and Milby arrived at the Manila City Hall on Thursday around 10:30 a.m. with actors Angel Locsin, Rica Peralejo and Pokwang; and "The Buzz" host Cristy Fermin.

Employees and fans mobbed the actors upon their arrival. The actors' security detail initially barred media men from entering the city council session hall.

Milby

Solis' lawyer, Margarita Lasam, said her client did not attend the third hearing led by assistant city prosecutor Dennis Aguila because the columnist's presence was "not necessary."

Pascual and Milby sued Solis and entertainment editor Samio after the columnist refused to retract her statements. Samio insisted she had nothing to do with Solis' article as she was already retired.

In her sworn statement, Locsin (Angelica Colmenares) said she was with Pascual from 4:30-7:15 p.m. for a photo shoot of a watch they were endorsing.

Brand marketing officer Katrina Mae Soliman, ABS-CBN road manager Genevi Leah Lao, and hair stylist Felipe Silvestre also said Pascual was at photographer Raymund Isaac's studio from 4-7:15 p.m. Peralejo said she saw Pascual at a Quezon City gym and learned from him that he was going to a shoot afterwards.

As for Milby, hair colorist Marvin Lopez and stylist Nestor Sollano said the actor was having his hair done from 3-6 p.m. on Oct. 12.

Lawyer Joji Alonso, counsel for the complainants, said the testimonies of University of the Philippines professor Jovy Peregrino and Luisa Rodriguez supported the other essential elements in proving libel, like readers' reactions to the controversial column item.

Solis and Samio were expected to file a rejoinder to the witnesses' affidavits on Feb. 7.

Wilma Doesnt says sorry to Kamikazee

By Dolly Anne Carvajal
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Here's Wilma Doesnt's side about Kamikazee manager Richard Tan's complaint, which came out in my Monday column. According to Richard, Wilma owes the band its talent fee for performing in a car show at Gen. Trias, Cavite, last November. The super model is super apologetic lest the issue will make her career self-destruct a la Kamikaze bombers.

"I was the one who booked Kamikazee. After Christmas, my line was cut that's why they couldn't reach me. I kept following up the payment with my biz partner Mark Ang. All the while, I thought okay na sila with Richard. Mark has not been returning my calls so wala din akong masagot kay Richard. Nahihiya ako sa kanila na nagka-problema sila dahil sa akin. I'm really sorry."

Hopefully, the incident has taught Wilma Doesnt the do's and don't's of booking talents.

Patrick's replacement

Polo Ravales doesn't mind being a replacement for Patrick Garcia in "Maging Akin Ka Lamang." Patrick and GF Jennylyn Mercado had to be taken out of the cast because of her unexpected pregnancy.

"It's no big deal even if 'di ako ang first choice," says Polo. "What's important is that pinagkatiwala sa akin ang role." He's paired off with Nadine Samonte. Any chance he will fall for her?

"She's gorgeous and nice. Now I know why a lot of guys are crazy about her," he says. "Baka ma-recite ko kay Nadine in real life 'yung title ng soap namin if ma-develop feelings ko for her." Will Nadine second the emotion?

Not true

Karylle just laughs off talk that she and BF Dingdong Dantes are not allowed to be seen in public together so as not to "ruin" his tandem with Marian Rivera in "Marimar."

"We still go out but not as often because of our busy skeds," explains K. "We spent Christmas in Baguio with my family. Then we went to Boracay with his cousins. There are just some places we avoid because maraming tao. But that doesn't mean 'di na kami pwedeng mag-date as a couple."

Dong's romance with K has long been established before his team-up with Marian boomed. They have a secure spot in each other's lives. Their love will outlast all the seasons of Dong's hit show.

Guess who

This chanteuse held a mini concert/prayer rally right in the middle of a residential area. The show dragged on till way past midnight. An exasperated resident lamented, "Nothing wrong with preaching while entertaining people, but sana she held it na lang in her place para di kami naistorbo. Cars couldn't pass and we couldn't sleep. Nakabalandra ang stage sa kalye and it was too noisy." What kind of diva is she whose show wasn't music to the ears?

'Wheel of Fortune'

The longest-running syndicated game show in the US is here. The Philippine version of CBS' "Wheel of Fortune" airs weeknights before "TV Patrol World" on ABS-CBN. Kris Aquino hosts. With her are "PBB Celeb Edition" housemate Zara Aldana and "Star in a Million" finalist Jasmine Fitzgerald. If there's a "Wheel," there's a way… to win a fortune!

Choosing between networks

The contract of Cristine Reyes with GMA-7 will expire by the end of January. Some quarters are speculating that she will make the big switch to ABS-CBN. "I don't want to choose between the two networks," she said. "What's important is kung saan ma-explore ang talents ko at hindi lang yung puro pa-sexy." Is she staying put in the Kapuso network because of Dennis Trillo? "Di ko na muna siya iniisip," she said, blushing. "But I'm not closing my doors on him."

Will Dennis come knocking back soon?

PERSONAL FINANCE

Coping with a strong peso

Question: My husband's $1,000 used to give us P55,000; now it only amounts to P41,000. I'm having difficulty making ends meet and paying all our bills. How can I wisely handle this remittance in spite of its dwindling value? – Catherine C.

Answer: The peso is stronger than ever and remains on the upswing. While the US dollar continues to weaken due to developments in the US subprime mortgage market, the Philippine peso is riding the waves, doing much better than other Asian currencies.

Remittances from OFWs have been coming in strong, thus there is much supply of dollars in the Philippines. This makes the peso appreciate even more. While this is good news for importers (since goods they are importing from other countries are now cheaper), it is bad news for exporters, since they are paid in foreign currency for the goods they export.

OFW families are also greatly affected, as you have experienced. Whereas before, the US dollar fetched a higher peso value, now it's much lower than before.

Analysts say the Philippine peso will remain strong this year. Given that scenario, it will be wise to take steps to cope with the effects of a strong peso.

Below are simple ways you can adopt to deal with this development:

1. Tighten your belts.
That means cut costs whenever possible. Look at your lifestyle and see where you can minimize your expenses. If you have two phones, landline or mobile, try to live on one. If you use the air conditioner every night in all rooms, try sleeping in just one room to save on electricity. If you have two cars but can live on one, do so. Other ways to live simply: watch DVDs at home instead of going to the movie house, eat more at home than in restaurants, walk, carpool or take public transport rather than drive all the time.

It's not really about depriving yourself, but maximizing the use of your resources to drive down expenses.

2. Budget wisely.
You've probably heard it all before about how a budget can help one manage finances well. It really does. So make a list of your expected money inflow and money outflow (expenses) and exert all efforts not to go over your budget.

3. Prioritize what's needed.
Children's tuition, for instance, is more important than taking a vacation abroad. Make sure you pay off important bills to meet your family's needs. Remember: always put needs first before wants.

4. Do not go into debt. If you can, don't borrow money just to maintain your previous lifestyle. You will just dig a deep hole for you as it may be difficult to pay off your debts in the long run. There are good debts for sure – a housing loan, for instance, or a credit facility to run your business – but make sure the debts will yield a better benefit for you in the future.

5. Find ways to increase your income.
If you have been solely relying on your husband's remittance all these time, then it may be time for you to do something. It doesn't mean you have to go abroad to work too. You can start a business right in your home by offering a product you can do yourself (such as cakes made to order) or a service you can offer (such as tutoring or graphic design). Or you may want to apply for a part-time or full-time job nearby. The income you add to your family's coffers will help you and your family greatly.

6. Save for a rainy day.
If you haven't been diligently saving over the years, start doing so now. Aim to have an emergency fund you can dip into when situations like job loss and illness happen. A good start is saving 10 percent of your husband's remittance every month. Don't touch this amount unless necessary.

7. Talk to your husband.
Keep communication lines open and inform your husband of what's happening. This will help him gauge if it's time to increase his remittance or seek a better-paying job.

We hope these tips will help you stretch your budget and manage your cash flow better. Remember: Good financial planning is not about having enough money to spend on your needs (and a few wants) – it's about making do with what you have and the discipline to keep doing it. Good luck!

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Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Clipped wings

The decision of the US Federal Aviation Administration to downgrade Philippine airline operations does not hurt Philippine Airlines alone, although the expansion program of the first flag carrier has now been put on hold. It disadvantages the country as a whole.

The news about the downgrade broke only this week, but Philippine transportation officials already knew about the calamitous decision last month. Indeed, given the nature of these reviews, which rely on the cooperation of and the grant of access by host governments, officials of the Air Transportation Office or the Department of Transportation and Communications must have known about the adverse finding well in advance.

Sen. Joker Arroyo puts the blame squarely on the two agencies: "Neither the Department of Transportation and Communications nor the ATO told the Senate anything about the impending downgrade, which they already knew during the budget hearings in October. What they did is that just before the Christmas recess, they stampeded Congress to pass the Civil Aviation Authority Act lest, according to them, we be downgraded. Congress acted on it with practically no debate. Still, the FAA downgraded us."

It was, typically, a case of too little, too late.

The Department of Transportation and Communications, which oversees the ATO, has already decided to paint Congress as the scapegoat. Retired police general Thomas Lantion, speaking for the DOTC, told reporters that Congress must first pass a bill creating a Civil Aviation Authority—as though this would solve all the ATO's problems.

In its Jan. 8 report, the FAA identified specific areas of concern, including outdated aviation regulations, poor training programs for safety inspectors and sub-standard licensing for air frame and engine inspectors. The government can raise the standards in these specific areas and comply with international aviation safety regulations even without a CAA. Granted, the new agency will make the upgrading process more efficient, but does that mean the ATO and the DOTC will simply wait for Congress to act before acting themselves?

What the CAA will do is allow the government to allocate more funds for air safety, the purchase of new equipment or the training of more personnel. But as Arroyo asked pointedly, why didn't the ATO simply ask for more money?

The flyboys at the ATO and the scandal-stricken officials of the DOTC have some explaining to do. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Value of OFWs is not in $12B annual remittance

By WILLY E. ARCILLA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

There is an urgent and pressing need to arrest if not reverse the chronic brain drain led by the millions of OFWs and emigres by addressing their reasons for leaving: The lack of opportunities at home to improve their quality of life and provide for a better future for their families.

It is lamentable to hear top government leaders celebrating the exodus of OFWs in anticipation of their monthly remittances that only feed private consumption spending.

Economists must agree that the value of OFWs is not $12 billion per year, which translates to a paltry $100/month assuming a combined 10 million OFWs and emigres.

The real economic value of OFWs is reflected in the National Income Accounts of their host countries, not to mention in tax revenues they pay diligently. This holds true whether they render services in medical health in North America or in construction in the Middle East; whether they pilot the world's jetliners or ocean-going vessels; and whether they are investment bankers in Singapore or caregivers of the children of investment bankers in Hong Kong.

Arguably, the real economic value of OFWs and emigres is vastly more substantial than the monthly remittance of $100. Imagine therefore if the country can benefit directly from OFW contributions to their host nations. The value of our GDP must be easily double if not nearing triple our official records.

These 10 million include the best and the brightest Filipinos who are able to compete globally--all of whom have come to realize that they can fetch higher compensation for their skills and talents. Those who claim that local companies cannot afford to pay higher salaries must remember the consolidated net income of the country's top 1,000 corporations reached P500 billion in 2005 alone--not to mention the cumulative earnings in the years before and the average 25-percent growth for the past two years.

By attrition therefore, the country has been left with second-tier talent, which, coupled with the deterioration in the quality of education that produces unqualified and unemployable college graduates, is resulting in a loss of competitiveness.

Values vacuum

It may not be presumptuous to say that OFWs may also possess stronger values in terms of work ethic and competitiveness, discipline and perseverance, integrity and accountability--by virtue of the demands of working in a foreign land amid an increasingly competitive global marketplace--and therefore, the Philippines has not only been suffering a serious brain drain, but perhaps more worrisome is a values vacuum.

As a result, what is left is a nation of consumers because the productive workers drive the wheels of industry of their host countries (instead of the Philippines'), remitting enough only for their families' domestic consumption.

Therefore, while most developing countries are enhancing the intellectual capital of their people like high-tech India (not just call center agents); achieving surpluses in food production and becoming a global agricultural powerhouse like Vietnam; or strengthening their manufacturing muscle like China, the "superfactory" of the world, the Philippines has become the "supermarket of the planet," content with buying virtually everything from the world in shop-till-you-drop mall sales or amusing ourselves with being the world's leading cell phone texters.

Perhaps the most harmful side effects of the OFW diaspora are the incalculable social costs of physical separation between families, the basic unit of any society--many of which have ended in marital infidelity and broken homes, juvenile delinquency and lack of values formation, and employer abuse.

Reversing brain drain

How can this brain drain be reversed and how do you rechannel the contribution of Filipinos to the national economy instead of just driving the economic growth of their host countries?

1. Encourage profit-sharing and share-ownership among businesses because workers who are part-owners are more productive. They will drive revenues and cut costs on their own. Even the government can promote this by levying lower income tax rates for companies that practice profit-sharing.

As workers are provided with the opportunity to be the best they can be, and rewarded for their entrepreneurial spirit, they can be dissuaded from leaving to earn higher salaries--only to work for foreign bosses.

2. In parallel, there is the need to reduce the cost of living that will make the local cost structures more competitive to attract more foreign investors and generate more employment and higher incomes. This will require a maniacal focus on achieving not only self-sufficiency but surpluses in food production that can be exported; drastically reducing power costs by evaluating alternative forms including nuclear energy; higher investments in physical infrastructure (without the S.tandard O.perating P.ayola); upgrading the quality of education beginning in nursery, and extending the number of primary-to-secondary years in line with global standards; providing affordable medicines plus quality health care; and redistributing land for the landless and homes for the homeless which all contribute to promoting a climate conducive for foreign and local investments.

3. The single most important factor that can encourage reverse migration or a "brain gain"--the absence of which is precisely the very reason why our countrymen have left--is inspirational leadership in government similar to the legendary examples of Asia like the great Mahatma Gandhi, Deng Xiao Ping, King Bhumipol Adulyadej, Lee Kuan Yew, Park Chung Hee, Mahathir Mohammad.

While the greatest triumph of the Philippine economy in the last four decades has been the OFW phenomenon, the greatest tragedy will be if their children and grandchildren will continue to be OFWs themselves because government leaders, economic planners and industrialists failed to capitalize on the priceless self-sacrifice, precious "borrowed time" and hard-earned remittances to build a strong agricultural base and a globally competitive industrial sector that should have provided food and livelihood at home.

The author is president of Business Mentors Inc., a management consultancy firm, and regional director of ZMG Ward Howell, a leading provider of human capital solutions.

LOOKING BACK

By AMBETH OCAMPO
Inquirer

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Taft and the 'friar lands'

Taft Avenue in Manila is always in danger of being renamed by enthusiastic lawmakers in the local or national government who have no sense of the history that goes into a street name. So many of Manila's landmark streets that have "been sanctified by usage" have been renamed after people who are better forgotten by history. We are fortunate that the renaming of España Avenue has been withheld because of an almost overlooked deed of donation that stipulates that the land cut by this famous avenue will be and remain public provided it is called España Avenue.

I am often seen as an obstacle to progress, and sometimes I am even described as an ostrich who hides his head in the past to evade the issues of the present. Yet when it comes to street names that have been in use for at least 50 or 100 years, we must show some respect or learn proportion. For example, I met someone who proposed that Santa Monica Street, one of the ancient street names in Ermita, Manila, be changed to the name of some relative who was "illustrious" to the proponent but obscure to me.

I asked her, "Can you give me one good reason we should change this street name?"

She answered, "Who is Santa Monica? What did she do to merit a street name? She is only the mother of Saint Augustine."

So I worked on her pious sentiment and said, "She may only be the mother of Saint Augustine but she is a saint in her own right. Can you say the same thing of your relative?" End of discussion.

There have been attempts to change the famous Manila street names Taft and Harrison on the grounds that the names of former colonial officials have no place in our nationalist times. But then history is a record of all that has happened to us, both good and bad. These two Americans, Taft and Harrison, compared to many colonial careerists in the archipelago from Spanish times, were good to the Philippines and the Filipinos and their names should remain to remind us of their life and deeds.

The New York Times recently featured an exhibit of vintage photographs of an American mission to Asia in 1905 headed by Taft. I hope that this exhibition will be brought to the Philippines if only for us to see what the country looked like a century ago. Taft and his party did not just stay in Manila, they traveled to Iloilo where they were well-received. In 1905, Taft's mission was to help figure out an end to the ongoing Russo-Japanese War, and also to show legislators and the world the beneficial effects of America's civilizing mission in the Philippines.

Based on photographs, William Howard Taft (1857-1930) who headed the Philippine Commission to the Philippines at the turn of the 20th century was a big man, literally and figuratively. This man from Ohio was to become the 27th president and 10th chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States of America. There are two famous photographs of Taft, one astride a carabao and another riding a small horse. It is said that he went up to Baguio on horseback to enjoy its cool climate and had himself photographed. Then he sent the photo to the US secretary of state with a note that he had arrived safely in what was to become the Summer Capital of the Philippines. The secretary of state replied to acknowledge the photograph with the question, "How is horse?" Taft must have weighed over 200 pounds.

What Filipinos also forget is that Taft negotiated the disposition of the so-called "friar lands" in the Philippines with Pope Leo XIII in the Vatican in the summer of 1902. To prepare for this task, Taft met with the superiors of the various religious congregations in the Philippines and conducted interviews with Filipinos regarding the expulsion of the Spanish friars, and again the "friar lands."

Transcripts of these interviews were published for the information of the US Congress. Taft wanted to know about the relationship of the religious orders with the Filipinos and, of course, the extent of their land holdings. (Lands held for Ecclesiastical or Religious Uses in the Philippines Island etc., 56th Congress 2nd Session. US Senate document 190)

If we are to go by the number of pages, the Dominicans had the longest interview at 16 pages of transcribed text, followed by the Franciscans (12), the Augustinians (10), and the Jesuits (a mere three pages). We must remember that the Jesuits were expelled from the Spanish Philippines and only returned in 1859 when they reopened a school that is now the Ateneo de Manila University. Perhaps if they had stayed on, they would also have merited more pages because they would also have had accumulated significant landholdings.

What is significant is that the Benedictines are also included in this document even if they only arrived in the Philippines at the tail-end of the Spanish period and had very little to speak of, because they started as missionaries in Surigao and were captured by the revolutionists. The small community regrouped in Manila and set up a small school for boys that is now San Beda College. Benedictines were interviewed by Taft and merited all of one page, with Taft doing most of the talking. He even shifted the subject from land to the liqueur I mentioned in my last column called "Benedictine," which he wished the monks of Manila would produce for his enjoyment. Hidden in this Senate document is a footnote to food and Taft's human side.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

HONORING TINA
Jerry Custodio, president of the CNMI Human Dignity Movement, delivers his remarks during the tribute dinner for Rep. Tina Sablan at the Aqua Resort Club Saturday night. The event was hosted by nonresident workers who participated in the Dec. 7, 2007, Unity March. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Sr. Stella Mangona acknowledged how "fortunate we are to have Tina in the Legislature."

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Irene Tantiado delivers her remarks for Rep. Tina Sablan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Rep. Tina Sablan holds the certificate of appreciation given her by Core Group members and officials during a tribute dinner at the Aqua Resort Club Saturday night.

Rep. Tina Sablan and Lupe Manglona pose for a group photo with Ernest Maicle, community activist Malou Berueco, Cory Borja, and other members.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dragon Edong and family members perform a special number during the dinner party.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Phale Posadas with her sisters and friend.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Philippine actress Marissa Delgado and Fr. Nonoy Recaido join Savannah's Beauty Salon for Men and Women owner Ellen Delos Santos.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NEW BEAUTYY SALON
Savannah's Beauty Salon for Men and Women owner Ellen Delos Santos is joined by Marissa Delgado, Fr. Nonoy Recaido, Mar Santiago, Fe Calixterio, Lucy Reyes, Lynn Naungayan, Esther Aleta, Nellie Tawney and Dez Javier during the salon's grand opening in San Antonio Thursday morning.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BON VOYAGE
Nikko Hotel's Oscar Apritado and a friend, Imee Fernandez, during a recent party. Apritado is leaving Saipan for his new assignment in Guam. Nikko's Food and Beverage family and friends wish their dear boss bon voyage.

INAUGURATION
Philippine Consul General Wilfredo D L Maximo joins Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider during the 16th Legislature's inaugural session at the House of Representatives Monday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Christina-Marie E. Sablan joins Jerry Custodio, president of the CNMI Human Dignity Movement, and Core Group member Cory Borja shortly after the 16th Legislature's inaugural session at the House of Representatives Monday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Hotel Nikko Saipan's Oscar Apritado poses with a friend, Minako Kayagaki, during a recent bon voyage party for Apritado. Apritado is leaving the island for his new job in Guam. Nikko's F&B family and friends say that their "dear boss will surely be missed!"

Youngstyle

So you want to be a lawyer?

By AMY ORNDORFF
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Allison Rutland Soulen is a lawyer. Some lawyers work in large offices with fancy furniture and beautiful views. Rutland Soulen works out of the basement of an Arlington, Va., church. Often her clients can't afford to pay for her legal help, but that's OK with her. She doesn't charge much, if anything.

Eleven years ago Rutland Soulen co-founded Just Neighbors, a group that provides legal services to immigrants and educates the community. Immigration law is very complex. There are many rules about who can and cannot live in this country, and that can make it difficult for people to know and understand their options.

"I wanted to help people who otherwise wouldn't have access to the help," says Rutland Soulen, 47.

As a kid, she didn't know what she wanted to be when she grew up. She majored in English at Emory University in Atlanta and then taught high school in Georgia. That was when she realized that many people needed legal aid and couldn't afford it.

So Rutland Soulen went to law school for three years at Yale University in Connecticut.

Many businesses, including sports teams and newspapers, need lawyers. So does the government. Some attorneys prosecute crimes; others defend the accused. Some lawyers specialize in civil cases such as divorces. And some, including Rutland Soulen, help people who don't have a lot of money.

Rutland Soulen does not make as much money as other lawyers do—she is paid through donations to Just Neighbors—but she says she loves her job. Besides helping others, she likes that her three children, the oldest of whom is 12, can sometimes come to work with her.

After law school, Rutland Soulen clerked in Connecticut for a federal judge (that's a job like being the principal's helper) and then worked at Neighborhood Legal Services in Washington. She helped low-income people with their legal problems.

She learned a lot about immigration law and continues to stay informed because the rules are always changing. In 1996, she, another lawyer and a pastor started Just Neighbors.

"There is just an overwhelming need for this kind of service," she says.

Some of her clients are unable to read even in their own language, so it's nearly impossible for them to figure out the forms they need to fill out, she says.

The Just Neighbors staff—an executive director, three attorneys and numerous volunteers—has helped people from more than 90 countries. Many are refugees who fled wars, natural disasters or unstable governments. They are hoping to become U.S. citizens and reunite their families.

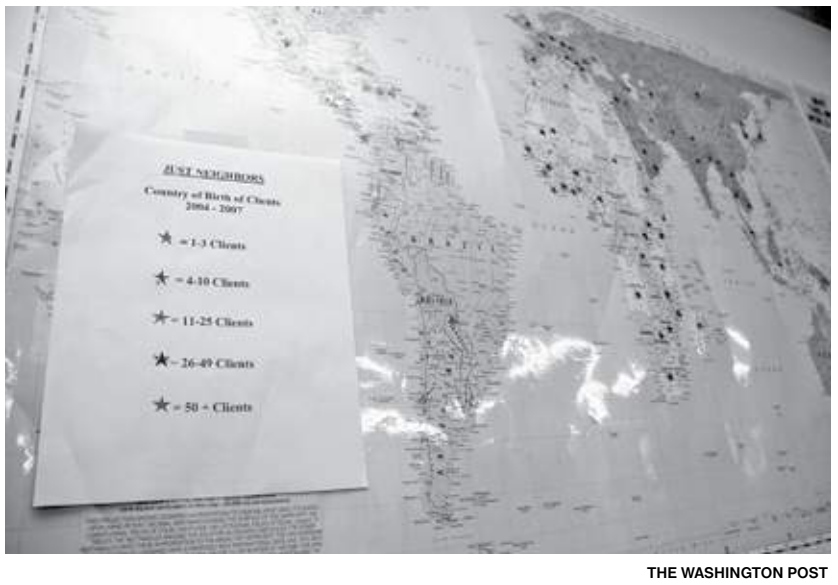
Children often accompany their parents to Rutland Soulen's office, so she keeps lots of stuffed animals around to give them. The first ones picked are usually those that still have their tags.

"For many of our clients getting something new is very unusual," she says.

Rutland Soulen says that one of the most difficult parts of her job is that she can't help everyone who comes to see her. Some immigrants don't have a legal way to stay in the United States. Before she tells them that, though, Rutland Soulen spends hours reading law books and reviewing other cases, looking for a way to help.

Listening is an important part of being a lawyer, Rutland Soulen says: "For many clients, you are their only ear."

THE WASHINGTON POST
Children often accompany their parents to the Just Neighbors legal services office in Arlington, Va., so Allison Rutland Soulen keeps lots of stuffed animals around to give them.



THE WASHINGTON POST
Just Neighbors has helped people from more than 90 countries. Stars on a map show where the Arlington, Va., legal service clients have come from.

CAREER TIPS

By AMY ORNDORFF
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Before you handle your first case, some tips to get you prepared:

ENJOY READING
Law students read a lot and never stop learning. Allison Rutland Soulen spends hours each week keeping current on immigration law.

PRACTICE KEEPING SECRETS
Clients need to trust their lawyers. Attorneys aren't allowed to tell anyone what their clients tell them.

STUDY, STUDY, STUDY
Rutland Soulen works with people from many countries. Knowing their geography and history is important. Because lawyers are needed in every field, anything you develop an interest in could be helpful one day. To become a lawyer, a person must pass a tough test known as the bar exam.

VOLUNTEER
Rutland Soulen enjoys helping people. You can do that now by volunteering in the community.

BE ORGANIZED
Lawyers take lots of notes. The Just Neighbors legal services group handled about 500 cases last year. That's a lot of files to keep track of.

LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE
Rutland Soulen knows French and is learning Spanish. No matter what kind of lawyer you want to be, she says, knowing another language is a big help.

WHEN I GROW UP
I Want to Be a . . . Lawyer

Allison Rutland Soulen reads many books (this is one of the bigger ones!) about immigration laws. She also educates the community by handing out information about Just Neighbors.

By the Numbers

735,000
The number of working lawyers in the United States in 2004.

$94,930
The median annual income for lawyers that year. Half made more; half less.

75%
How many attorneys at law work in private practice, either alone or in law firms. Other lawyers work for companies, the government and nonprofit groups.

3
The number of years of law school for full-time students.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, 2004

Security Measures

Rutland Soulen makes sure to shred early drafts of her clients' documents (the final version goes in a permanent file). Shredding a document ensures that no one will find and read her clients' information in the trash.

Clients' files

Shredder

A bag of shredded documents

PHOTOS BY WILL WEBSTER – THE WASHINGTON POST

»it's about«
YOU
. . . and Income

Did you get money as a gift during the holidays? Kids ages 8 to 12 receive, on average, $735 each year. Here's where that money comes from.

Annual income for ages 8 to 12

Asking parents for money	$228
Allowance	204
Chores/household work	199
Gifts	104

SOURCE: Harris Interactive "YouthPulse 2007"

THE WASHINGTON POST

Two of a kind: Crocodile and alligator

By BRENNA MALONEY
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

One of them is chatty. One of them likes to show his teeth. Both like to nibble on turtles. They both cry, but not from sadness. And neither is smelly, thank you very much. Can you tell an alligator from a crocodile?

KidsPost's Brenna Maloney spoke with Sean Henderson, a reptile keeper at the National Zoo, and Adam Britton, founder of Big Gecko, a crocodilian research firm in Australia. They help explain the differences between the two crocodilians (a group of scaly, armor-clad reptiles that also includes caimans and gharials).

Jaw

Alligators tend to have wide, U-shaped, rounded snouts. Crocodiles have longer, more pointed, V-shaped snouts.

Teeth

The fourth tooth on each side of a crocodile's lower jaw sticks over the upper lip; you can see it even when the mouth is closed. In alligators, all the teeth are covered when the mouth is closed.

Skin

If you look closely, it appears they both forgot to shave in the morning. But the tiny spots that look like beard stubble on their upper and lower jaws are actually sensory organs that help the reptiles locate and capture prey in the water. On crocodiles, these spots cover the entire body.

Habitat

Crocodiles have special glands in their tongues that can get rid of excess salt, so they tend to live in saltwater habitats. Alligators also have these glands, but they don't work as well, so gators prefer to live in freshwater habitats.

Traits They Share

Both eat rocks to help them digest the other weird things they eat. Neither chews before swallowing; their jaws cannot move sideways, and their teeth are designed only to seize and hold prey. They swallow stones to help break down the food in their stomachs. Their digestive systems are among the most acidic of any animal and can digest bones, hooves—even horns.

Both can sink their teeth into prey with tons of crushing pressure. "I've measured bite force in a 15-foot crocodile and measured 3,800 pounds of force—2 tons of pressure," says Britton. Yet the muscles that open the jaws are weak. A thick rubber band placed over the snout can easily hold the jaws shut.

Both have powerful tails used for swimming and, on occasion, for smacking enemies.

Both have a voice. "Crocodilians are the most vocal of all reptiles," Britton says. Some species can communicate more than 20 kinds of messages through growls, snorts, squeals and hisses. The American alligator is one of the loudest; its call is like the roar of a lion.

Crocodilians at the zoo

Want to see gators and crocs?
The National Zoo in Washington has an American alligator (nicknamed Wally), two Chinese alligators, seven Cuban crocodiles and two Johnson's crocodiles.

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THE WASHINGTON POST
Can you tell an alligator from a crocodile? Alligators, such as this American alligator, have wide, U-shaped, rounded snouts that completely cover their teeth when their mouths are closed.

Answers to some nagging questions

Q. If an angry croc charges me, can I outrun it?

A. "People often ask (that), and the answer is yes!" Big Gecko's Adam Britton says. "Don't bother trying to zigzag while you run, though—just cut a nice, straight line away from the crocodile as fast as you can, and you'll easily beat it. The danger that crocodiles pose is not their ability to run after you, but their ability to strike before you even know what's happening."

Q. Is it true that you can put a gator to sleep by rubbing its belly?

A. "Belly rubbing," the National's Zoo's Sean Henderson says, "refers to tonic immobility. It's a state of hypnotism generated by flipping the animal on its back and fully extending its neck" and stroking its underbelly.

This behavior also has been observed in mammals and sharks. "Tonic immobility is generally brought about in an animal that is under heavily stressful conditions," he says. "Don't try this at home!"

Q. If a crocodile sheds tears after gulping down a bunny, is it sad about what it did?

A. Like humans, crocodiles and alligators have tear ducts that lubricate the eye surface. "Tears can accumulate when the eye dries out on land and can be visible, and the crocodile can be seen 'crying,' but this doesn't have anything to do with the old legend about showing 'insincere remorse,' " Britton says. It's the same with alligators. In fact, when they bite, even more tears can be squeezed out. But that doesn't mean they're unhappy with their dinner choice.

Q. Can an alligator run on its hind legs?

A. Alligators and crocodiles move in a number of ways. They can do a belly-walk slither, a belly-off-the-ground "high walk," a gallop and even a jump. "Some crocodiles do have the ability to stand on their rear legs for ... a few seconds," Britton says, "particularly when trying to reach something above them, like food. Not all species have the muscle power to do this, but American alligators can do it. So can Cuban crocodiles. This is hardly 'running on their back legs.' It's more like a brief wheelie."

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

In Loving Memory of Our Father, Grandfather & Great-grandfather

†Enrique Musuk Kapileo

better known as 'Tata Bubu'

He now joins His Wife: †Victoria Ilo Kapileo
Grandson: †Kit K. Charley

His memories will forever live in the hearts of His kids and grandkids

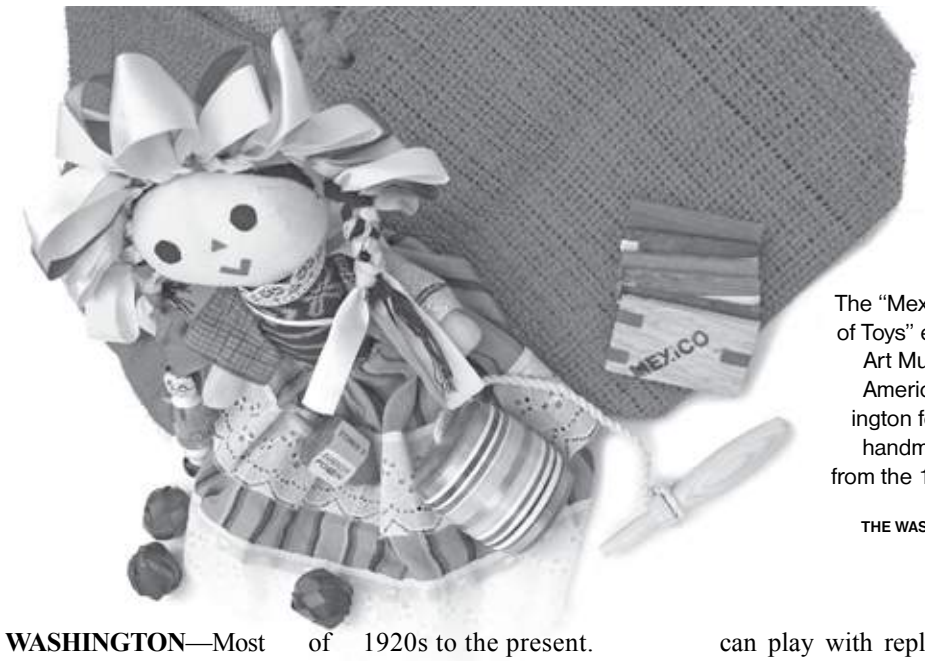
Luisa K./Saikichy Angey
Theodore – Mabel Angey (Auwiman, Summerrain, Misty Mae), John – Molyna Angey (Anthony Theodore, Jonathan James), Alisa – Jesse Babauta (Troy Austin Babauta), Vickyann K. Angey, Anthony K. Angey, Daisyann K. Angey
Arnold/Frances Kapileo
Roy – Darcie Kapileo (Leoline Francine), Arnicia Kapileo
Tina/Frank Salas
Robert/Teresa Salas (Kiara Renee, kiana Jordan), Elwyn/Armela Salas (Jenna, Tina, Alexis, Melissa, EJ)
John H./Pola Kapileo
Polyann Jolene, Johnny Refimatau
Adela I. Kapileo
Serena Leverette, Leilam Leverette, Rachel Abrams, Antonette Kapileo
Agnes I./Bernard Charley
Soena, Corina, Maitai (Tyara), BJ
Abelina/Dale Drexler
Lyle, Carl, Curt
Candy/Bill Agulto
Prudencialyn, Deirdre, Victrian, Keeshaun Lance
Uel E./Dionicia Kapileo
Gayla Marie Kapileo
Henry Kapileo/Emy T.
Ernest/Priscilla Kapileo
Tina, Ernestina, Lucy, Vikiann, EJ, Ursela
Martin/Alma Kapileo
Marielle, Mark Anthony, Matthew, Mitchel, Marianne

Nightly rosary is being prayed at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Saikichy Angey in Koblerville.

His remains will be escorted from CHC at 3:00 p.m. on January 23, 2008 to the residence of Mrs. & Mr. Saikichy Angey in Koblerville, across ABCD Market.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at Mt. Carmel Cathedral on January 24, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

A festival of beloved toys



The "Mexico: Festival of Toys" exhibit at the Art Museum of the Americas in Washington features 600 handmade objects from the 1920s to the present.
THE WASHINGTON POST.

WASHINGTON—Most of our toys are cranked out by machines. One looks just like the next. Fun to play with, yes, but nothing out of the ordinary.

Handmade toys, on the other hand, are part plaything and part art, as an exhibit at the Art Museum of the Americas shows. "Mexico: Festival of Toys" features more than 600 objects from the 1920s to the present.

Some of the dolls and other colorful items in the exhibit are part of important celebrations in Mexico such as Carnival and the Day of the Dead. Others are everyday toys used and loved by children across Mexico.

Because everyone knows it's hard to look at toys and not want to touch them, the exhibit has several places where you can play with replicas of the toys on display.

The museum, at 201 18th St. NW in Washington, is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The toy exhibit is free and runs through March 16. For more information: www.museum.oas.org or 202-458-6016.

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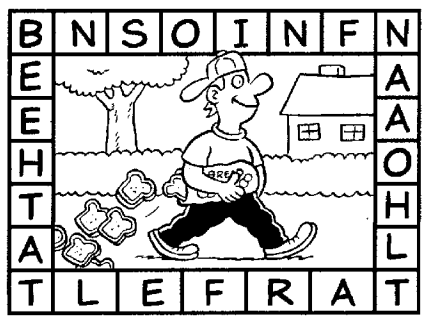
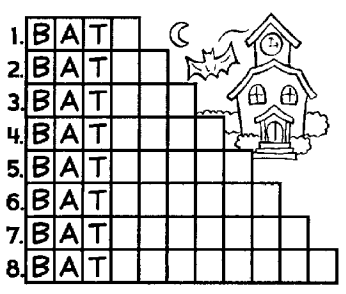


A CRUSTY PROBLEM! Hidden in the above frame is a famous proverb. You can find it by reading every other letter as you go around counter-clockwise. The trick is finding the right first letter.

Answers: Starting with "H" in the left rail: "Half a loaf is better than none."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



BATS IN THE BELFRY!

Don't go batty trying to figure out what these "bat" words are. To the left is a list of eight words, each of which starts with the word "bat." Using the following hints, see if you can hang them all up in five minutes.

1. A type of mat.
2. Needed in a relay race.
3. A flat-bottomed Louisiana boat.
4. Can be wet or dry.
5. A lounging garment.
6. A large army unit.
7. Part of a castle's walls.
8. Free-diving deep-sea vessels.

Answers: 1. Bath. 2. Baton. 3. Bateau. 4. Battery. 5. Bathrobe. 6. Battalion. 7. Battlement. 8. Bathyscaphs.

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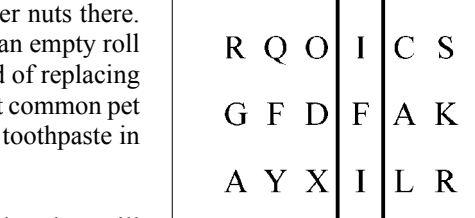

Answer: The wall won't break or fall! (Did you think he meant the egg?)

DON'T SLIP UP solving this magic square puzzle. Can you find the five-letter words that match the definitions below? All words must read the same both across and down.

1. A short literary composition. 2. To glide on ice (given).
3. Group of Pacific islands. 4. Very small items.
5. Used in bread-making.

1	2 S	3	4	5
2 S	K	A	T	E
3	A			
4	T			
5	E			

Answers: 1. Essay. 2. Skate. 3. Samoa. 4. Atoms. 5. Yeast.

New Year, new dog part II

Once your dog responds to the command "heel," it's time to add two more basic commands to the training regimen: "sit" and "stay." A dog that can sit on command and remain in that spot is a well-trained dog indeed.

Begin with the command "heel." After walking a few steps, stop. Give the command "sit."

Chances are extremely good that your dog, unless it's had prior exposure to the command, will simply stand and stare at you, or try chasing butterflies, or do anything but sit down. You'll have to show it how. Do this either by gently pushing its hindquarters down, or by slowly backing it up while pushing its hindquarters down (be careful when pushing so as not to injure its hips). Demonstration is also practical—sit on your haunches as you say the command. (Ignore curious stares from passersby.)

Practice this maneuver again: Give the command "heel," walk a few paces, stop, and give the command "sit." When your dog follows these commands, give it lots of praise (and a small, healthy treat, if you choose).

Next, "stay." When your dog obeys the command "sit," as soon as its haunches touch the ground, give the command "stay." Pivot on your left foot so you are facing it directly and hold your hand, palm out and flat, in front of his muzzle. Repeat the command and gesture any time it tries to stand up.

The first goal of this command is to have your dog stay seated for five seconds. Gradually increase the time it must stay, and decrease the number of times you must repeat the command. Ultimately, it should be able to stay for three minutes, with only one command from you.

Remember to use a firm and steady tone of voice, be patient, don't give in to frustration, and give lots of praise only when your dog obeys the command.

Recommended book: "Why Does My Dog Drink Out of the Toilet? Answers and Advice for All Kinds of Dog Dilemmas," by John Ross and Barbara McKinney (St. Martins Press)—out of print, but available used through Amazon.com.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ Do you get annoyed at your mate's bathroom habits? Well, you're not the only one. A survey was conducted in 2006 to determine exactly what it is we do to drive each other nuts there. The No. 1 compliant was leaving an empty roll of toilet paper on the spool instead of replacing it with a new roll. The second most common pet peeve was finding gooey globs of toothpaste in the sink.

■ It was American columnist and author Bill Vaughan who made the following sage observation: "Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them."

■ The country of Canada gets its name from a Native American word meaning "big village."

■ Butchers in Germany recently decided to spice up their trade with some new sausage flavors, including kiwi, maraschino cherry, lemon and aloe vera. You've got to wonder, though: Did that actually help or hurt their business?

■ The Disney complex in Florida employs 350 chefs and 300 sommeliers, serving more wine than any other site in the entire U.S.

■ Chicago may not deserve the title "Windy City" after all. Those who study such things say that the wind there averages only 10.3 mph. In contrast, 13.9 mph is the average wind speed in Dodge City, Kansas, making it the windiest city in the United States.

■ Childhood obesity has become a well-publicized problem in this country, and much debate has gone into deciding how best to tackle the issue. The state of West Virginia is taking a somewhat novel approach: By next year, you'll be able to find the video game "Dance Dance Revolution" in all of its public schools.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "You have to know how to accept rejection and reject acceptance." —Ray Bradbury

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MAGIC MAZE ● — FLY

E	X	U	R	O	L	J	G	D	A	X	V	S	P	N
K	I	F	S	C	A	X	V	S	Q	O	L	J	H	E
O	C	A	A	G	X	V	T	R	P	N	L	J	H	F
D	T	B	C	Y	I	X	V	T	R	P	O	M	K	I
G	E	D	R	K	D	P	B	Z	X	D	W	U	E	T
R	Q	O	I	C	S	N	N	N	L	T	N	S	J	I
G	F	D	F	A	K	I	O	E	I	N	U	A	E	C
A	Y	X	I	L	R	G	D	U	H	O	W	O	S	V
T	S	R	C	B	A	F	R	D	H	W	F	I	R	E
P	O	N	E	R	P	F	A	L	A	I	K	J	O	T
I	G	F	D	E	S	T	E	S	T	C	O	O	H	S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Afraid to	Fire	Sacrifice	Trout
Black	Fruit	Sand	Tsetse
Caddis	Horse	Shoo	When pigs
Dragon	I won't	Sparks	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	–		x		21
+	■	+	■	+	■
	÷		+		17
+	■	+	■	+	■
	x		–		15
20	■	7	■	24	■

1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 9

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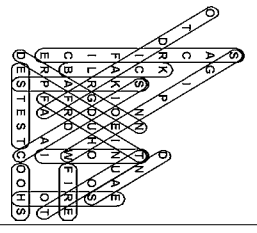
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

■	24	■	7	■	20
15	9	–	4	x	6
■	+	■	+	■	+
17	8	+	1	÷	9
■	+	■	+	■	+
21	7	x	2	–	5

Publish your own night night book

Make a family reading resolution this year, and kick it off with a brand-new book you publish with the youngest budding reader in your family. To get you started, here are some ideas for your first book, titled "Night Night Book." Not only will your child have a one-of-a-kind book to enjoy, but also it has the added benefit of making the bedtime ritual extra fun!

Each page represents something in your children's world they're familiar with, something they see or use each day. As you read it over and over, new stories will emerge, giving a boost to language development and a love for books and reading.

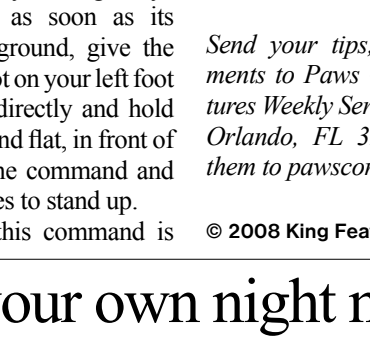
HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

■ Poster board or sturdy paper
■ Magazine pictures and photographs of people, places and pets familiar to your child (you might wish to use color copies of photos for this book)
■ Small, flat items (or simple drawings of items) familiar to child
■ Scissors
■ Glue
■ Markers

Here's the fun:

Collect photographs and magazine pictures as well as items familiar to your child such as paper labels from food products. Cut poster board into 8-inch-by-8-inch pages. Make as many pages as you wish.

On the cover, glue a photo of your child and write the words "Night Night," and your child's name (for example "Night Night, Adam").



Glue a picture or object to each page and print the name of it below, after the words "night night." For example, "night night shoes," "night night blankie." The final page of the book could be a poem.

For example,

"Now it's time to say night night,
The sun has set,
The moon is bright.
The stars are shining far away
And now you'll sleep until it's day!"

Bind the book by punching two or three holes along the left side of the pages and attaching the sheets together with safe, plastic, toddler links or metal rings.

Tip: To expand modern-language learning, write "Good night" in different languages on the pages, such as "Bonne nuit" (French) or "Buenos noches" (Spanish).

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Nicholson says he's looking for love

NEW YORK (AP)—Jack Nicholson, the legendary ladies' man, says he'd like to fall in love again.

"I never minded being a fool for love," the 70-year-old Oscar winner tells AARP The Magazine. "It's nice to have a place to be foolish. Ask any old friend of mine, they'll say, `Jack's pretty smart, but in this area the man is beyond the pale. Don't ask him anything about love. Or if you ask him, don't listen to him.'"

Nicholson says getting older has changed the way he woos women.

"I can't hit on a girl in public like I used to," he says. "I never thought words like `undignified' would come into my own reflections on myself, but I can't do it anymore."

Nicholson, whose past flames include Anjelica Huston and Lara Flynn Boyle, explains: "I feel uncomfortable. I don't think anybody cares what I do in these areas, but it feels a little bit off to me."

He says he'd date a woman close to his age—or younger.

"In fact, every year I like to cover a very broad spectrum," he says. "But you know? I've been single for quite a long time. I've been invested in my teenage children" with ex-girlfriend Rebecca Broussard. (He was married to Sandra Knight in the 1960s.)

Nicholson says nearly all his contemporaries tell him they want "that one last big romance."

"I don't do a lot of original screenwriting anymore, but if I were, I'd find a way to make this the dramatic narrative of a movie, because it's one of those silent yearnings of my own age group," he says.

Nicholson co-stars with Morgan Freeman in "The Bucket List," about two terminally ill patients on a final fling.

He's received 12 Oscar nominations, winning for "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," "Terms of Endearment" and "As Good as it Gets."

The March/April issue of AARP The Magazine will be available the week of Jan. 24.

4 paparazzi arrested for chasing Britney

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four paparazzi have been arrested for reckless driving while chasing Britney Spears' car in the San Fernando Valley. Los Angeles police Lt. Mario Munoz said officers observed several cars following a white Mercedes-Benz around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday in Mission Hills.

The cars were following Spears' car too closely and traveling at unsafe speed. They also made several unsafe lane changes, authorities said.

Munoz said officers stopped the Mercedes, interviewed Spears and released the 26-year-old pop star after verifying her driver's license.

But the four photographers in the cars chasing her were booked for investigation of reckless driving.

William flies solo for the first time

LONDON (AP)—Prince William was surprised, a bit nervous and finally elated by his first solo flight.

William, 25, the elder son of Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, is having flight training with the Royal Air Force. He flew alone for the first time Wednesday.

"God knows how somebody trusted me with an aircraft and my own life," he said of his flight in a propeller-driven trainer.

"I was doing a few circuits going round and round then Roger (Bousfield), my instructor, basically turned round and said, 'Right, I'm going to jump out now' and I said, 'What, where are you going?'"

"He said, 'You're going on your own ...'"

Once airborne, the prince said, "it was fine."

"You just remember your checks and do all the things you've got to do and fly the circuit," he said.

"Then I was watching the runway getting closer and closer and thinking, please, please don't mess this up," William said Thursday.

AP

Britain's Prince William, right, talks with his instructor, Squadron Leader Roger Bousfield, on the airfield at Royal Air Force Cranwell in Lincolnshire, England Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008.

Matthews: I wronged Clinton with remark

NEW YORK (AP)—With protests rumbling, MSNBC's Chris Matthews said Thursday that he was wrong to say last week that the reason Hillary Clinton is a senator and a candidate for president "is that her husband messed around."

Matthews discussed those remarks at the opening of his show "Hardball" Thursday, the same day feminist leader Gloria Steinem and the heads of four prominent women's groups complained in a letter to his boss that Matthews had shown a pattern of sexism.

"Was it fair to imply that Hillary's whole career depended on being a victim of an unfaithful husband? No," Matthews said. "That's what it sounded like I was saying and it hurt people I'd like to think normally like what I say (and), in fact, like me."

Rolling Stones sign deal with Universal

LONDON (AP)—The Rolling Stones announced Thursday they have signed a deal to release the soundtrack to their Martin Scorsese-directed concert film through Universal Music Group.

The move does not bode well for EMI Group, the label that has been the Stones' home for 16 years, raising the possibility that the band might follow Radiohead and Paul McCartney and leave the embattled record company.

"The band are looking forward to working with Universal Music and are excited about this new venture," the Rolling Stones said in a statement.

In a one-album deal, Universal Music's labels around the world will release the "Shine a Light" soundtrack in March. The album will be released in Britain by Polydor Records.

"We are really proud to be working with the Rolling Stones, and so is everybody in Universal Music globally," Universal Music Group International chairman and chief executive Lucian Grainge said.

Universal Music Group is a subsidiary of the French telecommunications giant Vivendi SA.

EMI said its relationship with the Stones was unaffected by the announcement, said spokesman Andrew Dowler.

"It's good spin: Universal are suggesting this is a broader thing, but it's about one film, one soundtrack and had nothing to do with their relationship with the label," he said. "They're an EMI band."

EMI has lost McCartney and Radiohead, two of its biggest acts, in the past year, while others—including Coldplay—have expressed unhappiness with the label.

EMI was bought by Terra Firma Capital Partners last year, and on Tuesday, the private equity firm announced plans to cut as many as 2,000 jobs, about a third of the company's work force, in a restructuring plan aimed at reassuring its restless artists, countering plummeting CD revenue and saving $400 million a year.

"Shine a Light" was filmed during a Rolling Stones performance at New York's Beacon Theatre in autumn 2006. It includes appearances by Buddy Guy, the White Stripes' Jack White and Christina Aguilera, along with rarely seen archival footage of the band.

The film, which is distributed by Paramount in the U.S. and 20th Century Fox in Britain, will open the Berlin International Film Festival on Feb. 7. It is expected to be released in theaters in April.

Woman balks at boyfriend's demand to cut off her family

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 23-year-old single mother of a 1-year-old son. My boyfriend wants to change my life. He wants me to delete all my friends and family from my cell phone and says I can see my family only once a month. (I am very family-oriented.) My boyfriend thinks that because I go and see my parents and sisters a lot that I don't "put him first."

I don't know what to do, because my son comes first. I understand the concept that once you find your true love, you move in with him and you're supposed to be happy. But he's never happy. He always finds something to argue about.

I work from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m., come home, take care of my son, clean the house, cook dinner and clean up afterward. I am at my wits' end trying to do everything and be a good mother and girlfriend. He loves my son, but he never offers to help me with bills or anything. He never buys me anything, only stuff for himself or my son.

I'm so confused right now, I don't know what to think. Please give me some advice.

—UNCERTAIN IN OHIO

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Gladly. Do NOT allow your boyfriend to limit your telephone contact or visits with friends and family. This is a classic sign of an abuser, and so is constantly picking arguments. You appear to be doing everything in this relationship—cooking, cleaning, paying the bills. What exactly is he contributing?

A healthy relationship is a partnership in which both members pull their own weight. Unless your boyfriend is prepared to make some serious changes, you should move back with your family.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My daughter, "Felicia," is 33 and still lives at home with her father and me. She's a wonderful person, has a great job and contributes to the house. Her father and I love Felicia and are very proud of her. However, we both feel that she needs her own place.

Every time we bring it up, Felicia says she would like to live here until she marries. Her dad and I have been married for 37 years, but we would like our privacy. What do you think?

—IMPATIENT MOM IN CHICAGO

DEAR IMPATIENT MOM: I think you have been more than patient. The time has come for you and your husband to tell your fledgling she needs a nest of her own. Help her to find one, and do not allow her to stall any longer. You will be doing all three of you a favor.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I love my mother. She and I go out to eat frequently. My problem is she sometimes makes loud comments about people who are seated near enough that they can hear her. I have seen some of them look at us after some of her comments.

Today she did it again, and I asked her either not to talk about the people loudly, or to do it after we leave the restaurant. She replied that she was not talking in that loud a voice, and now she's mad at me and not speaking to me. Was I wrong to ask her to lower her voice?

—UPSET IN UTAH

DEAR UPSET: No. Your mother may have been embarrassed that you corrected her in public. She may also be in denial about the fact that she's suffering from some degree of hearing loss. You were right to tell her that she was being overheard. You would be doing her a favor to insist that she have her hearing checked by an audiologist—if only to prove you're "wrong."

■ ■ ■

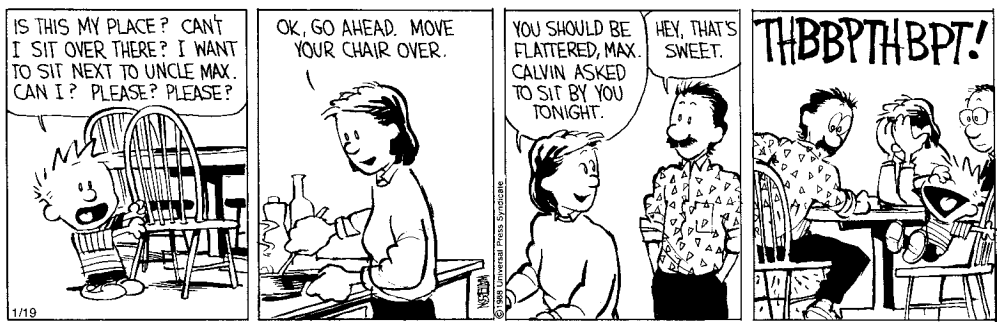
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IS THIS MY PLACE? CAN'T I SIT OVER THERE? I WANT TO SIT NEXT TO UNCLE MAX. CAN I? PLEASE? PLEASE?
OK, GO AHEAD. MOVE YOUR CHAIR OVER.
YOU SHOULD BE FLATTERED, MAX. CALVIN ASKED TO SIT BY YOU TONIGHT.
HEY, THAT'S SWEET.
THBBPTHBPT!
1/19
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU'RE FAT
JIM DAVIS 1-19
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I'M BIG BONED!
WELL I SAY YOU'RE FAT!
AM NOT! AM NOT!
HE CAN DISH IT OUT, BUT HE SURE CAN'T TAKE IT!
Text: GARFIELD © 26842 US ONLY

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BRIAN BASSET © 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE
ADAM, THOSE WERE THE NEIGHBORS WHO JUST PHONED— THEY WANT TO KNOW IF YOU CAN KEEP YOUR "GRUNTS" DOWN.
1/19
BLOGS.ANTYDES.COM/BRIAN
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

License AND REGISTRATION.
Here y'go.
THIS IS A DOG LICENSE.
DANG! THAT COULD MEAN ONLY ONE THING.
1/19
2008 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
MY DOG IS USING MY I.D. AGAIN TO GET INTO R-RATED MOVIES.
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

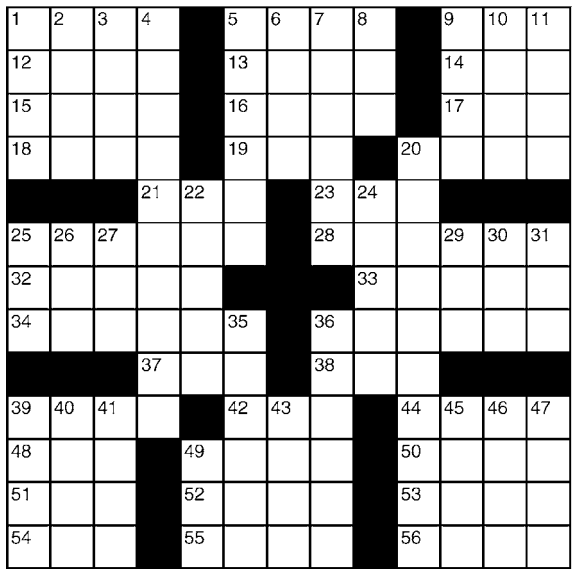
ACROSS
1 Yucky semiliquid
5 Info measure
9 Playground game
12 Old Italian bread
13 Tennis venue
14 Wish undone
15 Somewhere out there
16 Shaving-cream additive
17 Ode honoree
18 Sandwich shop
19 Kitten's call
20 Result of friction
21 The girl
23 Parisian pal
25 Under these circumstances
28 Cowardly
32 Recluse
33 Expiate
34 Bobcats
36 Investigated
37 Commotion
38 Operated
39 Retainers
42 Exploit
44 Cordage fiber
48 Once around
49 Weapons
50 Falco or McClurg
51 "Rocks"
52 Highlander
53 City of India
54 Commonest English word
55 Lily variety
56 "The Yearling" subject

DOWN
1 Happy
2 Biographer's topic
3 Exam format
4 1984 Sam Shepard movie
5 Points a finger at
6 Elis' campus
7 Bilateral
8 Compass dir.
9 Authentic
10 Emanation
11 Fellow
20 South Carolina island
22 On the payroll
24 Stiller's partner
25 The whole shooting match
26 Miso ingredient
27 B&B
29 High arc shot
30 Inseparable
31 Take a spouse
35 Root
36 Magician's cry
39 Move like a moth
40 "To — his own"
41 Duel tool
43 Urban blight
45 Shaving gel brand
46 Entangle (in)
47 Brandy flavor
49 Jawbone provider?

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	A	M	■	L	E	I	S	■	F	O	R	E
I	C	E	■	A	R	I	A	■	E	V	I	L
M	E	S	O	Z	O	I	C	■	D	E	N	S
■	■	S	H	E	S	■	■	F	O	R	G	E
R	O	A	M	S	■	P	I	E	R	■	■	■
E	G	G	S	■	M	E	S	D	A	M	E	S
A	R	E	■	B	A	L	L	S	■	E	R	A
M	E	S	Q	U	I	T	E	■	P	S	A	T
■	■	■	U	R	N	S	■	G	E	S	T	E
E	S	S	A	Y	■	■	S	A	R	I	■	■
P	A	I	R	■	M	E	S	S	M	A	T	E
I	S	N	T	■	O	A	T	S	■	H	A	L
C	H	E	Z	■	B	U	S	Y	■	S	P	Y

Yesterday's answer 1-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trever O'Brien, 24; Jodie Sweetin, 26; Shawn Wayans, 37; Dolly Parton, 62

Happy Birthday: This will be an eventful year if you are confident in all that you do and you don't leave anything unfinished. Changes will be inevitable and the ability to recognize what needs to be done quickly will keep you on top. This is a year to be precise, to the point and take action before someone steals your thunder and takes over. Your numbers are 7, 12, 25, 29, 31, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): The goals you've been trying to reach will fall into place, allowing you to tie up loose ends. Start to plan your next trip and include destinations where you will learn something to help you with your projects. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You will be judged on your ability to complete a job, not on how you did so. Call in favors owed to you and you will surprise everyone with your end result. Helping others will lead to continued help and more success. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may be spinning in circles, especially emotionally. A couple of strategic changes at home will ensure your comfort and happiness in the future. Love is on the rise and can lead to a prosperous relationship. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may be torn between two offers. By not making a quick decision you may lose out on both, but if you follow the path that will teach you the most, you will end up further ahead in the end. Don't make a big production out of what's going on. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): If you did what you were supposed to do, you won't spin your wheels today. Put the past behind you. Don't let someone else's responsibility drag you down or become your excuse for why you couldn't move forward. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Keep your thoughts to yourself. You will be in the best position when important decisions have to be made if you haven't let others know what you are thinking or contemplating. You are in the driver's seat. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Count your blessings and proceed to the finish line. You can manipulate any situation with your intelligence and Libra charm. Organize your thoughts, speak your mind and put your own plans into motion. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Redecorating, renovating or picking up items that will add to your entertainment and comfort will bring you satisfaction. A change of scenery or having someone new to spend time with will be a learning experience. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): There will be lots of excitement going on around you. Plenty of people want to get to know you better or do things with you. Your go-getter attitude will invite entrepreneurs and the movers and shakers to your table. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Your mind will be on work and getting ahead but, if you aren't attentive to the people who count on you for love and affection, you will have more to take care of than you bargained for. Added responsibility will include added rewards. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep moving—you have plenty to do if you don't want to disappoint someone you care for. Do your best to have fun while you work and your joy will make the people around you happy as well. Passion is in the stars, so set the mood. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Someone will disagree with you if you are vocal about your plans. A secret involvement may be enticing but consider the consequences if you get caught. Don't let your heart rule your head. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, intelligent and inquisitive. You are a friend, a lover and a good listener. You are confident and sentimental.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

1		8		3				4
			7		4			
				9				2
	6						3	
5		9				2		1
	2						9	
4				1				
			9		3			
6				7		8		5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

9	6	5	3	4	7	8	2	1
2	7	8	5	1	6	3	9	4
1	4	3	8	9	2	6	5	7
5	1	6	7	8	3	9	4	2
3	8	9	4	2	5	1	7	6
4	2	7	1	6	9	5	8	3
8	5	1	2	3	4	7	6	9
6	3	2	9	7	8	4	1	5
7	9	4	6	5	1	2	3	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/18

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IRISH FOLK MUSIC **Solution: 9 letters**

G	Y	H	S	T	E	P	F	M	P	R	O	O	T	S
(E)	N	S	E	M	B	L	E	A	E	S	O	L	O	C
(T)	O	I	C	S	U	C	D	E	T	L	E	N	O	I
(O)	M	R	D	T	E	R	L	D	R	P	O	N	O	M
(N)	R	I	E	D	U	S	D	J	I	G	S	D	U	H
S	A	U	P	R	E	S	S	P	E	F	P	I	Y	T
E	H	I	A	U	E	W	G	I	U	R	B	A	N	Y
P	S	L	E	U	B	A	N	J	O	D	P	M	R	H
I	H	L	N	I	B	S	C	U	L	N	U	R	D	R
P	P	E	U	B	R	C	D	I	E	I	S	E	A	C
N	V	A	A	P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	M	T	H
R	I	N	D	R	S	L	N	R	O	C	I	N	U	A
O	D	N	O	D	T	T	K	L	O	F	L	L	O	N
H	L	U	N	N	Y	I	A	N	M	D	I	E	R	T
Y	D	I	S	S	A	C	I	R	T	E	M	O	S	I

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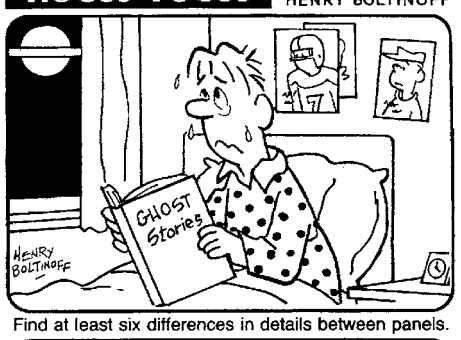
Bagpipe, Band, Banjo, Cassidy, Celtic, Chant, Circle, Drums, Duet, Eire, Ensemble, Fiddle, Flute, Folk, Harmony, Harp, Heart, Honor, Hornpipes, Irish, Isometric, Jigs, Live, Lunny, Melody, Mermaid, Moore, Note, O'Neil, Paddy, Petrie, Preserve, Proud, Pubs, Pulse, Reels, Reid, Rhythmic, Roots, Rural, Sessions, Solo, Star, Step, Tunes, Uilleann, Unicorn, Urban, Venues, Wedding

Yesterday's Answer: Password

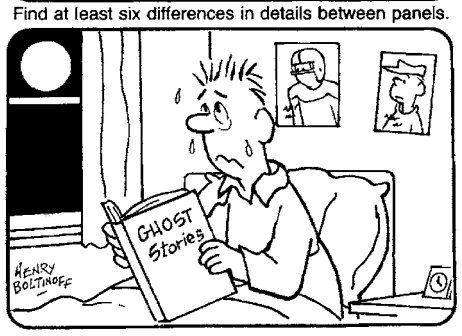
We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume, $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Pajamas are different. 2. Moon is higher. 3. Hair is different. 4. One picture is missing. 5. Headboard is lower. 6. No. 7 is missing from picture.

Wishing Well®

2	5	7	4	3	2	6	7	2	8	4	3	2
A	P	H	S	D	F	B	A	F	A	T	O	E
5	8	3	2	5	2	3	4	7	8	2	3	4
R	N	U	C	O	T	B	I	V	E	I	T	C
7	4	7	5	8	4	2	8	2	7	8	2	6
E	K	F	N	W	T	O	B	N	U	E	S	E
5	4	7	8	3	7	3	7	4	3	2	3	7
O	O	N	L	V	T	A	O	Y	N	A	I	D
6	3	2	3	6	4	7	3	8	2	7	8	4
D	S	W	H	I	O	A	E	O	A	Y	V	U
6	3	2	4	2	5	8	5	8	4	5	4	5
L	S	K	R	E	U	E	N	D	G	C	U	E
2	6	4	5	6	4	6	5	6	5	6	5	5
N	I	N	D	G	S	E	L	N	O	T	V	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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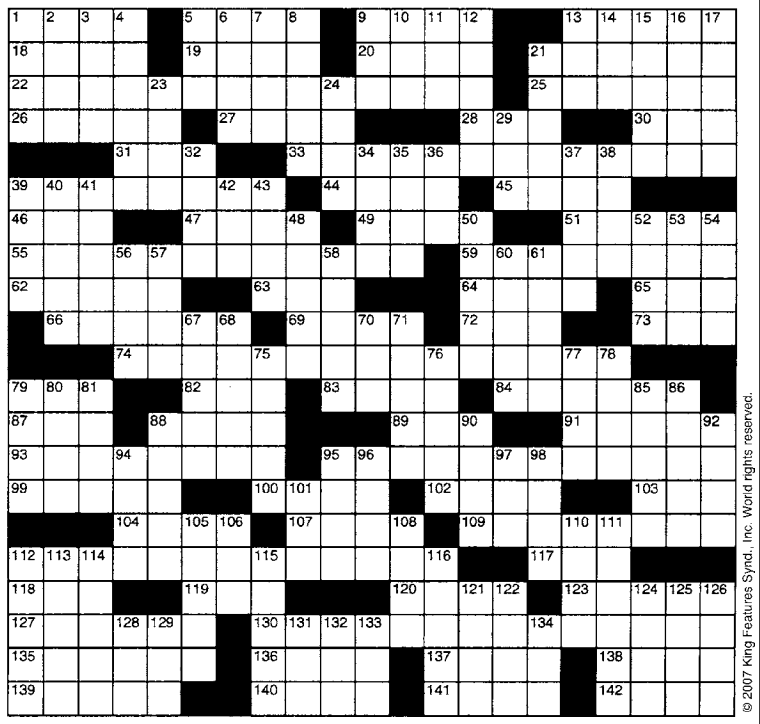
Super Crossword — TOWNSPEOPLE

ACROSS
1 Beauty spot
5 Relative of PDQ
9 Wattle's partner
13 Grating
18 Schipa solo
19 Actor O'Shea
20 One of "The Three Sisters"
21 Kind of roof
22 Pianist from Maine?
25 Pearl harbor?
26 Assert
27 Lascivious look
28 Leather-worker's tool
30 — -Cat (winter wheels)
31 Cover
33 Talk-show host from Colorado?
39 Nineveh native
44 Tibia
45 Miami's county
46 Railroad dep.
47 — rug
49 Verve
51 Kim of "True Grit"
55 Singer from Arkansas?
59 Hamlet's home
62 "There's — Out Tonight" ('61 hit)
63 Smidgen
64 "Heaven's —" ('80 film)
65 Distress
66 Philosopher Blaise
69 Deadly septet
72 Antipollution grp.
73 Sports-caster Allen
74 Actress from Alabama?
79 "Pshaw!"
82 Lennon's lady
83 Trifling
84 Pencil production
87 Orthodontists' org.
88 Helicopter sound
89 Link letters?
91 Western lake
93 Friday's rank
95 Pitcher from Ohio?
99 Crow's toe
100 Sign of sainthood
102 Parent
103 Sundial numeral
104 Eliot's "— Bede"
107 Emulates Simon
109 Lost one's balance
112 Drummer from Virginia?
117 Finished first
118 Mary of "Sons and Lovers"
119 Start to cry?
120 Provokes
123 Specks
127 Theater district
130 Actor from Pennsylvania?
135 Poet Sidney
136 Depend (on)
137 What have you
138 Anita Loos comedy
139 Satin quality
140 Wagon part
141 Say it isn't so
142 RN's workplace

DOWN
1 Cohn or Connelly
2 Spoken
3 Tenor Luis
4 Far and away
5 Brenneman or Linker
6 Doorway part
7 Opposite of aweather
8 Might
9 John — Passos
10 Cockpit fig.
11 Actor Tognazzi
12 Trite
13 Flicka's food
14 Jarreau and Jolson
15 Role for Dustin
16 Pool person
17 Biblical tyrant
21 Lively dance
23 Kuwaiti kingpin
24 Author Murdoch
29 Cotton clump
32 Anthropologist Fossey
34 "The Way of Love" singer
35 Metric measure
36 — bind
37 Rocker Van Halen
38 Estrange
39 Hammett hound
40 "The Bristol —" ('61 hit)
41 Apia's locale
42 Exist
43 Tree house?
48 Embarrass
50 Mideastern desert
52 ". . . where the buffalo —"
53 Cheeseboard choice
54 Roar
56 Actor Mostel
57 Formerly
58 Abhorrence
60 — lazuli
61 Celery serving
67 Hilo hello
68 Russian revolutionary
70 Vane dir.
71 Get sidetracked
75 Jay of "Dennis the Menace"
76 Murcia mister
77 "Why don't we?"
78 "L'—, c'est moi"
79 Express
80 Notion
81 Hindman or Holliman
85 Cathedral feature
86 Comedian Mandel
88 Darling child
90 Chad and Jeremy song, e.g.
92 "Idylls of the King" character
94 Stimulus
95 Burrowing critter
96 Jerky toy?
97 Angus' uh-uh
98 Expanded
101 Hibachi residue
105 Shady spot
106 "O Sole —"
108 Cut a cuticle
110 Taj Mahal, for one
111 TV's "Eight Is —"
112 Knots
113 Bathsheba's first husband
114 Patriot Silas
115 Mongoose foe
116 Like a prune
121 Kitchen addition
122 Loony Laurel
124 Banana-rama, e.g.
125 Souffle ingredients
126 Freighter or ferry
128 Taradiddle
129 Decimal base
131 King's handle?
132 Herriot title start
133 Salon supply
134 Furtive



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: In what state is Mount Rushmore located?
2. ANATOMY: Where is the ulna in the human body?
3. ANCIENT WORLD: Who kidnapped Helen of Troy?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Light in August"?
5. HISTORY: In what year was the first Zeppelin flight?
6. INVENTIONS: What did Elisha Otis invent?
7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is original Mayo Clinic located?
8. MUSIC: What was the nationality of composer Frederic Chopin?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a lurcher?
10. RELIGION: What is a more common name for the religious group called United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing?

Answers

1. South Dakota
2. Forearm
3. Paris
4. William Faulkner
5. 1900
6. Elevator safety brake
7. Rochester, Minn.
8. Polish
9. A kind of dog
10. Shakers

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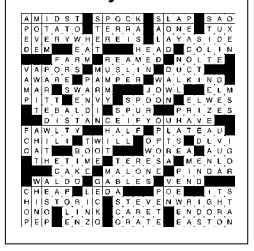
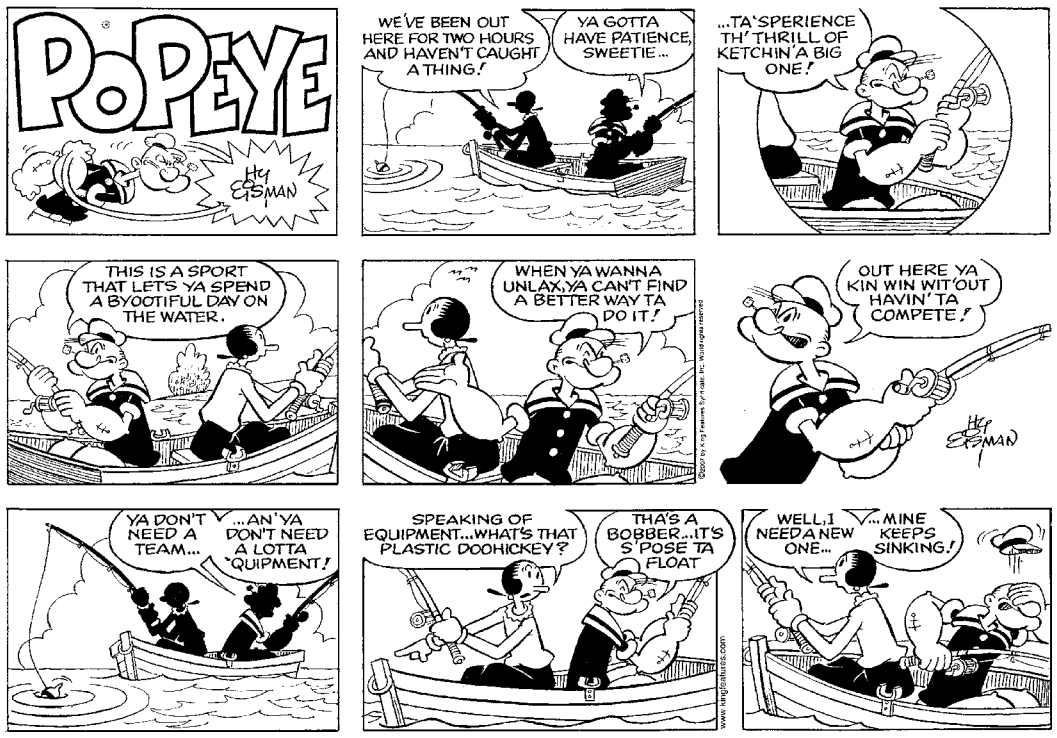
Saturday's Answers



POPEYE


HEY EGSMAN
WE'VE BEEN OUT HERE FOR TWO HOURS AND HAVEN'T CAUGHT A THING!
YA GOTTA HAVE PATIENCE, SWEETIE...
...TA'SPERIENCE TH' THRILL OF KETCHIN' A BIG ONE!
THIS IS A SPORT THAT LETS YA SPEND A BYOOTIFUL DAY ON THE WATER.
WHEN YA WANNA UNLAX, YA CAN'T FIND A BETTER WAY TA DO IT!
OUT HERE YA KIN WIN WIT'OUT HAVIN' TA COMPETE!
YA DON'T NEED A TEAM...
...AN' YA DON'T NEED A LOTTA QUIPMENT!
SPEAKING OF EQUIPMENT...WHAT'S THAT PLASTIC DOOHICKEY?
THAT'S A BOBBER...IT'S S'POSE TA FLOAT
WELL, I NEED A NEW ONE...
...MINE KEEPS SINKING!
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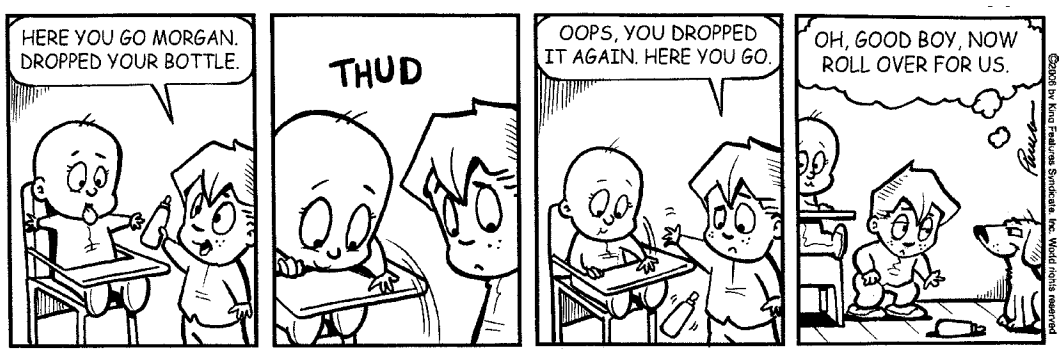
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps


HERE YOU GO MORGAN. DROPPED YOUR BOTTLE.
THUD
OOPS, YOU DROPPED IT AGAIN. HERE YOU GO.
OH, GOOD BOY, NOW ROLL OVER FOR US.
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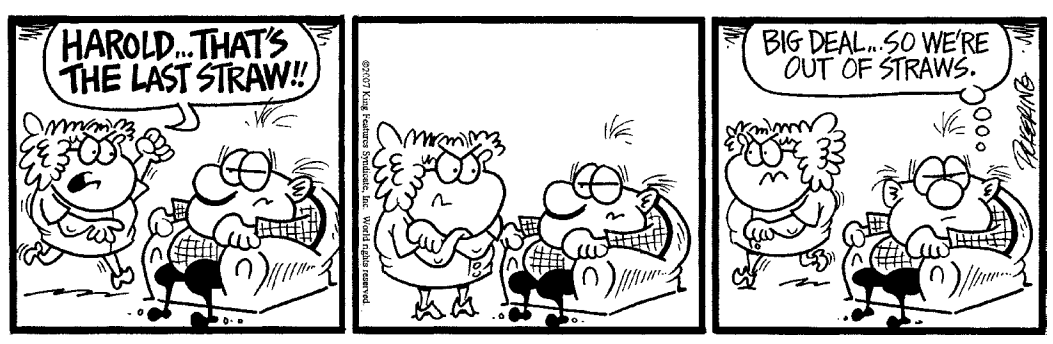
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



MARK TRAIL

MARK TRAIL
BECAUSE OF ITS RESEMBLANCE TO SLOTHS OF SOUTH AMERICA, 18TH-CENTURY CURATORS NAMED THE BIG BLACK BEAR OF SOUTHEAST ASIA "BEAR-LIKE SLOTH"
LATER IT WAS REALIZED THAT THE SPECIES, WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS SLOTH BEARS, WAS UNRELATED TO SLOTHS
IT IS ESTIMATED THAT 6,000 TO 11,000 SLOTH BEARS LIVE IN INDIA, AND THEY MUST COMPETE WITH MORE CHARISMATIC SPECIES SUCH AS TIGERS FOR GOVERNMENT ATTENTION
THE 300- TO 600-POUND SLOTH BEAR, WITH ITS STYLISH HAIRDO, IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS ANIMALS IN THE JUNGLES OF INDIA
THIS GENTLE-LOOKING ANIMAL USES ITS FLEXIBLE SNOUT AND LIPS TO BLOW AWAY DIRT AND SUCK UP TERMITES AND ANTS
THE SLOTH BEAR HAS WEAK EYESIGHT AND POOR HEARING, AND WHEN SURPRISED BY AN APPROACHING HUMAN IT IS OFTEN CONFUSED AND STRIKES OUT, MAIMING OR KILLING THE INTRUDER
JACK ELROD
SOME VILLAGERS FEAR THE BEARS MORE THAN THEY DO THE TIGERS
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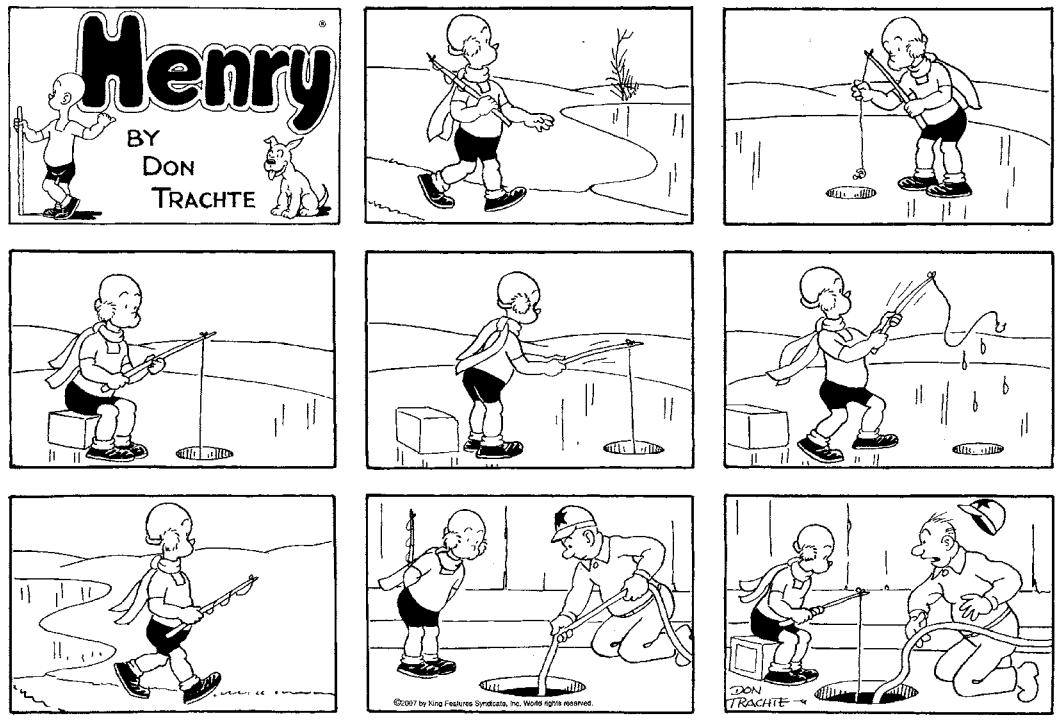
Henry

BY DON TRACHTE



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Contact: 288-0728.

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24 INSTRUCTORS (POST SECONDARY) (ST 7250)
Salary:$1,800.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/per month housing; $5.00/per meal; free medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 ADMINISTRATOR (POST SECONDARY) (ST 7251)
Salary:$1,800.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/per month housing; $5.00/per meal; free medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7252)
Salary:$1,500.00-$2,000.00/monthly. Benefits: $300.00/per month housing; $5.00/per meal; free medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (ST 7253)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; $5.00/per meal; medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

1 COOK (ST 7254)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; $5.00/per meal; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

2 SECURITY GUARD (ST 7255)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; $5.00/per meal; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American Mediscience University @288-2121.

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1 AUTO MECHANIC (ST 7256)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Golden Key Saipan, Inc. dba Rajamsbelle Auto Shop @235-8656.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7257)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing live-in; ER provided food& medical. Contact: Ana C. Celis @288-2622.

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1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (ST 7258)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Golden Crown Corp. dba GCC Carpet & Floor Care @235-3936.

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1 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER (ST 7259)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Luen Fung Ent., (Saipan), Inc. @234-7243.

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2 WAITRESS/WAITER (ST 7260)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Sheu's Brothers Holding Co., Ltd. @235-6128.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7261)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Catherine Sablan @235-1701.

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1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7262)
Salary:$3.05/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Nenita V. Marquez @234-3647.

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1 FARM WORKER (ST 7263)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Jesus T. Guerrero @234-8404.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7264)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing deductible by employer; $100.00/food deductible by employer; medical benefits & workers compensation. Contact: Jose T. Chong @256-5673.

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1 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (ST 7265)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical. Contact: Suxin Guo Edboi-John Fishing @285-9681.

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1 AUTO BODY REPAIRER (ST 7266)
Salary:$3.55-$4.00/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

1 HAND PACKER (ST 7267)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

1 SHIPPING & RECEIVING CLERK (ST 7268)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Work compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Cargo Express (Saipan), Inc. @234-6616/7/8.

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1 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC (ST 7269)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: Mohammed Abu B.S. Munshi @285-3445.

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1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7270)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; $100.00/food monthly; self arrange transportation; surety bond & medical. Contact: Richard T. Santos @235-0205.

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1 AIRCON TECHNICIAN (ST 7271)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; transportation; medical & workmen's compensation are employer provided. Contact: JWS Air Conditioning & Ref., Inc. @235-5572/74.

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1 MARKETING MANAGER (ST 7272)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Worksman compensation; sick leave; vacation leave & medical insurance. Contact: Western Sales Trading Co., @322-6031.

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1 BUILDER REPAIR & MAINTENANCE (ST 7273)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food & medical provided. Contact: Marty W.K. Taylor @235-0916.

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1 ADMIN. ASST. (ST 7274)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Amusement, Inc. @233-4397.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (ST 7275)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Amusement, Inc. @233-4397.

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1 ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTER (ST 7276)
Salary:$10.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Guma Corporation dba Advance Construction Technology @234-5459.

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1 HAND SEWER HELPER (ST 7277)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; provided workers compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Yong Jia Corp. @288-3839.

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1 ARCADE ATTENDANT (ST 7278)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Jimin Enterprises, Inc. dba Grand Poker & Royal Casino @235-3455.

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will be meeting from Tuesday through Friday, January 22 - 25, 2008. Meeting will be held at the Board's Conference Room, #1336 Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters –
1. Roll Call
II. Call to Order
III. Election of Officers
IV. Adoption of Minutes –
1. November 13-16, 2007
V. Re-adoption of CBNE logo.
VI. Unfinished Business –
1. Rules and Regulations
VII. Review of new applications.
VIII. Adjournment

/s/ Elaine Marie Camacho, RN
Chairperson, CBNE Board of Directors

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

2 CARPENTER (ST 7279)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $100.00); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: UNI-World International, Inc. dba UNI-World Construction Company @288-1312.

1 CARPENTER (ST 7280)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $100.00); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: UNI-World International, Inc. dba UNI-World Construction Company @288-1312.

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1 GENERAL MANAGER (ST 7287)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Surety bond & workers compensation. Contact: Guang International Corp. dba Cherry Gift Shop @483-5034.

1 MANAGER ASSISTANT (ST 7288)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Surety bond & workers compensation. Contact: Guang International Corp. dba Cherry Gift Shop @483-5034.

2 ELECTRICIAN (ST 7289)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical; surety bond & workers compensation. Contact: JXYZ Corp. dba Saipan Souvenir Manufacture @285-0004.

1 HEAVY EUQIPMENT (MAINTENANCE) MECHANIC (ST 7290)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation; surety bond & medical. Contact: YS Corp. dba YS Construction @483-5822.

1 INTERPRETER (ST 7291)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Surety bond; workers compensation & medical. Contact: YS Corp. dba YS Construction @483-5822.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (ST 7292)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: Surety bond; workers compensation & medical. Contact: YS Corp. dba YS Construction @483-5822.

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7293)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: D.Y. Corporation @233-1212.

2 CERTIFIED FAA AIRCRAFT MECHANIC (ST 7294)
Salary:$2,200.00-$2,400.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Pacific Airport Services @235-4000.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (ST 7295)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & work compensation provided. Contact: Bobbies Café @235-2624.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7296)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Horizons, Inc. @323-8882/85.

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7297)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $50.00/monthly deductible housing; $50.00/monthly deductible food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Albert O. Tiu @323-8882/85.

1 COST ACCOUNTANT (ST 7298)
Salary:$7.60-$8.60/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 ELECTRICIAN (ST 7299)
Salary:$3.55-$4.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

3 WAITRESS/WAITER (ST 7300)
Salary:$3.55-$4.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing (2) employer provided shared housing (1); employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

3 COOK (ST 7301)
Salary:$4.10-$5.10/hour. Benefits: Employer provided shared housing (1) self provided housing (2); employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 BARTENDER (ST 7302)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Employer provided shared housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 BAKER (ST 7303)
Salary:$3.55-$4.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7304)
Salary:$6.50-$7.50/hour. Benefits: Employer provided shared housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7305)
Salary:$5.00-$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR (ST 7306)
Salary:$4.00-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 SHIP FITTER (ST 7307)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance-100% medical & dental, workers compensation. Contact: Seabridge, Inc. dba Seabridge, Inc. @322-7344.

1 WELDING TECHNICIAN (ST 7308)
Salary:$4.75/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance-100% medical & dental, workers compensation. Contact: Seabridge, Inc. dba Seabridge, Inc. @322-7344.

1 CARPENTER (ST 7309)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

2 WAITRESS/WAITER (ST 7310)
Salary:$3.55-$4.15/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing allowance; 2 duty meals; shared cost medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: WDI Saipan, Inc. dba Tony Roma's/Capricciosa @322-7516.

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7311)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & work compensation. Contact: Scot Thompson @287-6379.

Serena, Henin advance at Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Defending champion Serena Williams and top-ranked Justine Henin pushed aside two more overmatched opponents in the Australian Open, advancing to the fourth round with straight-set victories Friday.

Williams, 26-1 with three titles at Melbourne Park since the start of 2003, beat No. 26 Victoria Azarenka 6-3, 6-4.

Henin, 15-1 in Melbourne since the start of the '04 tournament that she won, overcame serving troubles to hold off 25th-seeded Francesca Schiavone 7-5, 6-4.

Henin extended her winning streak to 31, dating to the Wimbledon semifinals. But the Belgian star's path to the championship is tough, with both of last year's finalists potentially in her path.

Williams, who was unseeded and ranked No. 1 when she beat then top-seeded Maria Sharapova here last year to claim her eighth Grand Slam title, fired 15 aces and had a stretch of seven service games in which she yielded only six points.

Williams also was painting the lines with her groundstrokes, contributing to 29 winners. When she made her 25 unforced errors, it was usually was by a matter of inches.

"I feel pretty good about where I am," she said. "Hopefully, I'll peak later in the tournament."

Williams will face No. 12 Nicole Vaidisova, a 6-3, 6-4 winner over Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-4. Williams had to save set points in a semifinal against Vaidisova here last year before winning in straight sets.

"Obviously, it doesn't get much tougher than that," Vaidisova said of the fourth-round match against Williams. "She's a great champion, a great fighter.

"I'll definitely have to have my A game on."

Serena Williams of the United States returns the ball to Victoria Azarenka of Beralus in their third round women's singles match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 18, 2008

AP

No. 5 Sharapova faced fellow Russian Elena Vesnina later Friday.

No. 3 Jelena Jankovic, who had to save match points in her first-round match, had a lapse in the second set and a code violation for coaching in the second game of the third set of a 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 win over No. 30 Virginie Razzano of France.

Henin will play Taiwan's Hsieh Su-wei, who beat Aravane Rezai 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-4 in the third round.

"I hate to look too far," Henin said. "I just want to get ready, improve my game and be in my best shape. I know the draw, but I like to stay concentrated on myself."

After retiring from the 2006 Australian final against Amelie Mauresmo because of a stomach illness, Henin skipped the event last year because she was going through a divorce.

She has dominated the women's tour since returning, finishing 63-4, including two majors and the season-ending championship, in 2007. She added the Sydney International title last week to build up for Melbourne Park.

She got only 48 percent of her first serves and had her serve broken three times, and was lucky it didn't cost her more against Schiavone.

"It was really exciting. I'm glad to win in two," Henin said. "She's always given me trouble in the past, so it was a tough third round for me."

Men's No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko has not dropped a set in three rounds, beating France's Marc Gicquel 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 on Friday.

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga had a straight sets win over Guillermo Garcia-Lopez of Spain.

Marcos Baghdatis downed 2005 champion Marat Safin 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 in a momentum-swinging match that started Thursday and stretched into Friday morning and completed the second round.

Safin was the last player to beat top-ranked Roger Federer in Melbourne, breaking up the Swiss star's four Australian titles with a semifinal upset three years ago.

Baghdatis is one of three losing Australian Open finalists still in contention—a list that will certainly be reduced in the third round. He will play 2005 runner-up Lleyton Hewitt next. Fernando Gonzalez, who lost last year's championship match, is still in the equation.

Video of Baghdatis, a Greek Cypriot, holding a flare and reportedly yelling "Turks Out," emerged in the Australian media on Friday, 10 months after it was posted on a video sharing Web site.

The 2006 runner-up did not apologize for the video in a statement released Friday in response to criticism from Melbourne's Turkish-Cypriot community, saying he wanted to concentrate only on the tennis.

Cyprus has been divided along ethnic lines since 1974.

The International Tennis Federation and Tennis Australia both said they would not be making any comment.

Federer, aiming for a third straight Australian title, won the last 10 games in a 6-1, 6-2, 6-0 win over Fabrice Santoro on Thursday, ending the 35-year-old Frenchman's record 62nd major in the second round.

He has reached the finals of the last 10 Grand Slam tournaments and won eight of them, losing twice to Rafael Nadal at the French Open.

Nadal and Roddick are into the third round and playing later Friday. Nadal faces No. 28 Simon Gilles and sixth-seeded Roddick is against Philipp Kohlschreiber in a night match.

Trahan, Gamez share Hope lead

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP)—D.J. Trahan shot an 8-under 64, and Robert Gamez had a 65 Thursday to tie for the lead after two rounds of the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

Trahan began the day with a string of four birdies and had just one bogey to go to 13-under 131 through 36 holes of the 90-hole tournament.

Gamez turned in a bogey-free round. The co-leaders played at La Quinta Country Club, one of four courses used for the first four rounds.

Wind is often is a factor in the Hope and Trahan was happy to score well despite some gusts.

"It was definitely a little bit tough today. The wind was blowing over here. But (I'm) obviously very pleased with the round like that in these conditions."

Trahan's quick start could have been even better—he missed a short birdie try on his fifth hole.

"But I mean, four birdies to start the day, what more could you ask?" he said. The 27-year-old Trahan, beginning his fourth year on the tour, is looking for his second title. He got his first win at the Madison, Miss., event in 2006.

Gamez described his round as "just solid golf."

"I had some chance the last couple holes and just didn't capitalize, but overall it was pretty good," he said.

The 39-year-old Gamez, in the Hope on an exemption, is a three-time winner on the tour but doesn't have a victory since 2005. He finished last year at 132nd on the money list with $693,464, far below his best season in 2003, when he earned $1.5 million.

He said he found out a couple of weeks ago that he would get an exemption for the Hope.

"I would have hated missing this tournament," Gamez said. "it's in my top five of the year on the tour, and I just love playing it and I love being here."

Justin Leonard, the 2005 champion, had a 64 at La Quinta and was one shot off the pace, with Steve Elkington's 68 at PGA West leaving him another stroke back.

Joe Durant, who set the tournament record of 36-under 324 in 2001, began the second round in a five-way tie for the lead, but had a 73 at SilverRock Resort to drop into a tie for 21st.

The other four players who held a share of the opening-day lead fell back during the second round. Tim Petrovic had a 70 and was tied for fifth. Omar Uresti (72) Mathew Goggin (73) and Siege Maruyama (76) dropped back into the pack.

Petrovic, Goggin and Maruyama played at SilverRock, being used in the Hope for the first time. Uresti played at La Quinta. The first four rounds of the tournament are a pro-am, with pros only playing Sunday's final round at the Classic Club.

Selig given 3-year contract extension

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Major League Baseball owners gave commissioner Bud Selig a three-year contract extension through 2012 on Thursday, a move made two days after some congressmen were critical of his leadership is responding to the sport's drug problem.

Selig, who has been in charge of MLB since 1992, had repeatedly said since December 2006 that he would retire at the end of 2009 and that his mind couldn't be changed.

"This is clearly it," he said after the latest extension was approved in a unanimous vote on the final day of a two-day owners' meeting. "I could say this without equivocation."

Earlier this week, Selig and union head Donald Fehr testified before a congressional committee that both criticized baseball for its steroids problem and praised the sport for strides made during the past three years. Selig's contract extension drew immediate criticism from Rep. Cliff Stearns, who had called on Selig to resign last month after the Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball was released.

"The explosion in the use of steroids and other performance enhancing drugs occurred under Selig's 15-year tenure," the Florida Republican said. "I have found commissioner Selig's glacial response to this growing stain on baseball unacceptable and I have called on him to step down. This three-year extension of Selig's contract is a vote of confidence in his record, which includes taking minimal steps in ridding baseball of these drugs."

Selig in May will surpass Bowie Kuhn and become baseball's second-longest-serving leader behind Kenesaw Mountain Landis, who was the first commissioner from 1920-44. Despite previous Selig statements that he intended to retire, many in baseball didn't believe him.

"I did wrestle with it. I spent a lot of time agonizing over it, mainly with myself," Selig said. "But they really convinced me."

Selig said he won't accept any more extensions—although that is what he said after the previous one.

"Look, when this is over, I'm going to be 78 years old," Selig said.

Selig became acting commissioner in September 1992, when clubs forced out Fay Vincent. After saying he wouldn't take the job, Selig was elected to a five-year term as permanent commissioner in 1998 and gave up running the Milwaukee Brewers, the team he bought in 1970 and his family sold in 2005.

Owners voted in November 2001 to extend his term through 2006, then voted in August 2004 to extend it through 2009.

Oakland owner Lew Wolff began the latest move for an extension when he sent Selig an e-mail about a month ago.

"I said that he couldn't retire until I expire," Wolff said.

Selig said he considered Wolff's message as he weighed his decision.

"I looked at that about four times a day, and actually began to take it quite seriously," Selig said.

Selig provoked the 7 1/2-month strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series, but since has presided over an era of labor peace unprecedented since the players' association was formed in the late 1960s. He pushed for interleague play and wild cards in the postseason, eliminated the structure of separate league offices, launched baseball's Internet business and international initiatives.

Up ahead in 2009 is the launch of MLB's television network. He predicted more change over the next five years.

"By the time I leave, you won't recognize the sport," he said.

Baseball will be opening the regular season in Japan for the third time when Boston plays Oakland in Tokyo in March. MLB hopes to finalize plans next week for the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres to play exhibition games in Beijing during spring training this year.

"I have great dreams about internationalization," Selig said. "I feel comfortable telling you that we will do some very dramatic things internationally."

James, Cavs beat Spurs in finals rematch

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—LeBron James scored 27 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat San Antonio 90-88 on Thursday night in the teams' first meeting since the Spurs swept the NBA finals last season.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 17 points, and Anderson Varejao scored 12 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for Cleveland, which has won three in a row.

Manu Ginobili scored 31 points for the Spurs, and Tony Parker added 23 points but missed two free throws with 29.4 seconds to play that would have tied the game at 90.

Tim Duncan scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds for San Antonio, which has now lost four games at home and dropped to 5-5 in their last 10 overall.

The Spurs swept the Cavaliers 4-0 in June's finals.

A goaltending call against James, who was coming off a season-high 51 points against Memphis, gave the Spurs an 86-85 lead with 1:34 to play, but Daniel Gibson's 3-pointer put Cleveland ahead.

Duncan tied it at 88 before James' basket gave the Cavs a 90-88 lead with 33.6 seconds left. Parker, with a chance to tie, missed his two free throws and Ginobili's last-second attempt didn't fall.

The Spurs jumped out to a nine-point lead early and extended it to 10 early in the second quarter.

But the Cavaliers, behind Ilgauskas and Varejao, who scored nine and eight points in the quarter, respectively, went on a 17-2 run to go up 43-33 with 3:38 left in the quarter.

Only Ginobili, with 10 points in the second period, kept the Spurs afloat.

Cleveland, up 50-43 at halftime, took the lead with 7:30 left in the second quarter—and kept it until about halfway through the fourth quarter—off Damon Jones' fast break layup that broke a 31-all tie.

The Cavs extended their lead to eight points at 73-65 by the end of a third quarter in which the teams largely traded baskets, allowing Cleveland to keep San Antonio at bay.

Down 73-65 heading into the final quarter, Ginobili scored eight straight for the Spurs to open the period and bring San Antonio within 77-73. Spurs guard Brent Barry, in his first game since tearing a calf muscle in late December, scored his first points of the night on a 3-pointer that made it 77-76.

Parker's fast break to the rim with 6:42 left closed the Spurs' 13-4 run and gave them their first lead, 78-77, since 8:06 remained in the second quarter.

Barry's second 3 gave San Antonio another lead at 81-79 before Ilgauskas tied it at 81 with 5:08 to play.

AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, left, is defended by San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game in San Antonio, Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008.

Suns 106, Lakers 98

In Los Angeles, Phoenix won to leapfrog Los Angeles atop the Pacific Division and take the Western Conference lead.

Leandro Barbosa scored 22 points to lead the Suns, who won for the eighth time in 11 games to move a half-game ahead of the Lakers.

The Lakers had their seven-game winning streak snapped. Los Angeles lost for just the fourth time in their past 21 games.

The Suns shot 51.9 percent to 37.9 percent for the Lakers.

Nuggets 120, Jazz 109

In Denver, Linas Kleiza scored a career-high 41 points to lead Denver over Utah.

Allen Iverson added 28 for the Nuggets, who rebounded from successive losses. The Jazz' four-game winning streak ended.

Lakers' Andrew Bynum disappointed, optimistic

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lakers center Andrew Bynum, expected to be sidelined until at least the middle of March, expressed both disappointment and optimism in his first interview since injuring his left knee.

"It's serious because I'm going to miss two months. At the same time, it's not because it's nothing that's going to affect my future," Bynum told reporters shortly before Thursday night's game against the Phoenix Suns.

The 20-year-old Bynum, who leads the NBA in field-goal percentage, was injured early in the third quarter of Sunday night's 100-99 victory over Memphis when he landed on teammate Lamar Odom's left foot while going for a rebound.

MRI tests and an examination Monday by team physician Dr. Steve Lombardo revealed Bynum had temporarily dislocated his kneecap and suffered a bone bruise.

"I can't do anything. It's terrible," Bynum said. "I have to sit on the couch all day. I have to take it one step at a time. I think I'll have about 10 games when I come back. If I can come back before that, it's great. It's going to take me a little bit of time to get into my rhythm."

A third-year pro taken by the Lakers with the 10th overall pick in the 2005 draft, Bynum is averaging 13.1 points, 10.2 rebounds and 2.06 blocked shots, and has made 189 of his 297 field-goal attempts (63.6 percent). He's the league's 11th-leading rebounder and ninth-best shot-blocker.

The Lakers (26-11) had won seven straight—their longest winning streak in almost four years—and 17 of 20 entering Thursday night's game against the Suns. They beat Seattle 123-121 in overtime Monday night in their first game after Bynum went out.

"That was the worst," he said of having to watch the game at Seattle on TV instead of playing.

Garrett stays with Cowboys as assistant

IRVING, Texas (AP)—Sitting in the atrium of Dallas Cowboys headquarters, at the same table where Wade Phillips, Bill Parcells and several predecessors have given their daily briefings for years, Jason Garrett felt comfortable right away.

"I just want to start by saying I'm awfully excited to be sitting in this chair," Garrett said.

No, Garrett wasn't being introduced as Phillips' replacement. He was merely explaining Thursday why he decided to pull out of consideration for coaching jobs with Baltimore and Atlanta to remain offensive coordinator in Dallas.

Still, the symbolism was hard to miss—especially for a guy who has been viewed the coach-in-waiting since he rejoined the organization last year.

Garrett held a news conference to discuss his decision to stay, which included a promotion to assistant head coach and, presumably, a raise, perhaps approaching the $3 million per season made by Phillips. He insisted that he seriously considered the other jobs and didn't just see what was out there for the experience of going through the process.

"They weren't exercises," he said. "They were great opportunities. ... I think maybe this decision to stay here has a lot more to do with the Dallas Cowboys in 2007 and what the Dallas Cowboys can be in 2008."

Garrett gave thoughtful answers to all questions but one. Asked if he was promised he'd replace Phillips, Garrett said, "No," then turned his head to seek a question from the other side of the room.

League rules prevent team owner Jerry Jones from anointing Garrett as the heir to Phillips, but the way things have played out sure seems to indicate the likelihood.

After all, Jones hired Garrett before hiring Phillips last year. And when Garrett returned Wednesday night from visits with the Ravens and Falcons, he huddled with Jones to figure out his next move. Hours later, he opted to stay in Dallas, being part of a club that just went 13-3 and sent seven offensive players to the Pro Bowl.

"We're thrilled that Jason will be with the team in 2008 and moving forward," Jones said in a statement. "We believe that what we accomplished in 2007 is just the beginning of many productive years ahead. His vision and direction on the offensive side of the ball will only help us improve and get to where we want to be."

In Garrett's first year of building a game plan and calling plays, the Cowboys averaged the second-most points, third-most yards and fourth-most yards passing in the NFL. Tony Romo shattered team passing records, Terrell Owens set various receiving records and Jason Witten had one of the most prolific seasons by a tight end in league history. Running back Marion Barber even made the Pro Bowl despite being a backup.

"We made great strides this year," Garrett said. "We didn't achieve all of our goals, but we're heading in the right direction. When (wife) Brill and I looked at each other we said, 'Boy, we have a great chance here in Dallas.'"

Phillips said the importance of having both coordinators back is something "I don't think you can emphasize enough."

"That familiarity allows us to build upon what we were able to teach last year and puts us so far ahead of where we were at this time a year ago," he said. "The players learned and accepted two new philosophies on both sides of the ball last year. We will now be able to build upon that."

Tony Sparano, who had been Dallas' assistant head coach and line coach, was hired as the Dolphins coach on Wednesday. He worked closely with Garrett last season, helping ease him into the coordinator's job. Replacing Sparano—and, perhaps, other coaches who follow him to Miami—is next on Jones' offseason to-do list.

Phillips said the hiring of a line coach would happen "real quickly." A frontrunner is Hudson Houck, who had the job from 1993-2001. He became available when Parcells took over the Dolphins and swept out the assistants.

Colts say Caldwell in if Dungy retires

NEW YORK (AP)—Assistant head coach Jim Caldwell would replace Tony Dungy if the Indianapolis Colts coach retires, team owner Jim Irsay said Thursday night.

Irsay hopes Dungy will return and expects to speak to him this weekend, the owner said at a party celebrating an exhibition of the Jack Kerouac "On The Road" manuscript he owns at The New York Public Library.

Irsay said he might be able to make accommodations for Dungy such as allowing him to attend his son's high school football games in Florida on Friday nights. But he has no doubt that Dungy's commitment will be "100 percent" if he continues coaching.

"That's the type of guy he is," Irsay said.

Otherwise, he said, "Jim Caldwell would be the guy."

The Colts, the Super Bowl champions last year, were 13-3 in the regular season before falling 28-24 to San Diego last week in their playoff opener.

Caldwell has been an assistant to Dungy the last seven years - one in Tampa Bay and the last six with the Colts, where he has coached quarterback Peyton Manning. Caldwell filled in for Dungy for one game in 2005 following the death of Dungy's 18-year-old son, James.

Caldwell spent more than 20 years in college football, and his only head coaching experience came at Wake Forest. He spent eight seasons with the Demon Deacons and led them to a bowl game in 1999.

Caldwell turned 52 on Wednesday and has interviewed with the Baltimore Ravens, Atlanta Falcons and Arizona Cardinals for head coaching jobs over the past year.

Rocball semifinals start, two are master blasters

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The semifinals of the 2007-2008 World Organized Rocball Community League will be played this evening at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The best-of-three games, race-to-21 Final Four will start with Try-Outs taking on Evenflow in the 6pm first game. It will be followed by the second game scheduled at 8pm between No-Use and No Mercy.

In related news, Rocball founder Jim Feger announced that the sport has two master blasters this season—Val Taisacan of Islanders and Eugene Solomon of Evenflow.

Feger said Taisacan and Solomon scored at least one of the five categories of scoring that separate Rocball from volleyball.

"To earn the title of master blaster, a player has to score at least one each of the point serves called an ace—the two-point serve called a xunk, the two-point backcourt score called a kee, the three-point goal, and the most difficult: the one point jam. The jam is a play where a receiving team player can knock down or jam a served ball just as it crosses over the net," said Feger.

Myron Laniyo of No Mercy, meanwhile, finished as the 2007-2008 season's heavy hitter. Laniyo recorded 13 aces, two xunks, 29 kees, and five goals for 103 points not counting his kills, dinks, and court-point scoring. Laniyo was last year's MVP and master blaster but has yet to score a jam this season.

Laniyo's 29 kees is the leader in backcourt scoring and is tied with Ichnis Kapwich of team No-Use at five goals each. J.R. Gechig and Eugene Solomon of Evenflow are tied after scoring 16 aces each, while J.J. Neth and Julius Saito of Try-Outs are tied after recording three xunks each.

In team statistics, Evenflow has scored 68 aces, the Try-Outs scored 10 xunks and is the best in the league for that kind of serve. Evenflow is the best backcourt scoring team with 73 kees and No-Use won the 3-point scoring category with 12 goals.

Even though Evenflow came in fourth place for the semifinals, it scored the most points in the 2007-2007 season with 68 aces, six xunks, a jam, 73 kees, and eight goals for 318 points.

The second best heavy hitting team was No Mercy with 56 aces, four xunks, 64 kees, and 10 goals for 278 points. No-Use came in third with 36 aces, eight xunks, 69 kees, and 12 goals for 262 points. Try-Outs, in their first year playing Rocball, came in fourth place with 60 aces, 10 xunks, 40 kees, and seven goals for 241 points.

Prexy hopes RGA membership will be up in 2008

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Refaluwasch Golf Association president Adam Hardwicke hopes the club's membership will increase this year, especially after RGA decided to drastically cut its membership dues.

"We are changing the annual dues this year in hopes of not only bringing old members back but also getting more participation in the bi-monthly qualifiers and tournaments. This plan was already announced and I am confident that it will be well received," the CNMI chief public defender said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Incidentally, RGA's first monthly tournament of the year will be held this Sunday, Jan. 20, at the Marianas Country Club and Hardwicke is inviting current and old members as well as interested weekend warriors to participate.

Check-in time for the RGA's January Ace of the Month Tournament is at 11am with tee time set an hour later at 12pm.

Last week, RGA president "emeritus" and current tournament director Jess Wabol said that the club has decided to halve its membership dues for 2008 from the long-standing fee of $50 to only $25.

Wabol said this happened after RGA recognized the hard economic times and decided to give its members and future members a break by slashing the cost of becoming part of RGA.

He said he hopes by making membership in RGA a little lighter in the pocket, more weekend warriors will now return to the golf links and renew their membership or apply as new members of the golf club.

Wabol added that RGA is also instituting a new promotion this year wherein members who take part in at least 10 rounds by the time the annual RGA Turkey Shoot in November comes around, will get free entry into the tournament.

For more information about RGA's upcoming January Ace of the Month Tournament, new membership policies, and other competitions held by the club, contact Hardwicke at 483-2926 or Wabol at 233-3673.

MVA

From Page 28

on coral roads and single-track of Saipan, and a run through jungle and caves while passing World War II relics. The race starts and ends at Micro Beach.

The 2-km swim, 60-kim bike, and 15-km run Tagaman, meanwhile, begins at Pacific Islands Club and traverses the entire 15-mile length of the island of Saipan. Aside from the XTERRA Saipan Championship and Tagaman Triathlon, the 2008 Saipan Sportfest will also feature the annual Sophia Walk, an XTERRA bike race, and Taga Kids.

The Swiss duo of Olivier Marceau and Renata Bucher continued their dominance by winning the 6th XTERRA Saipan Championships last March 17.

Marceau and Bucher made it three times in a row, further cementing the two's dominance in conquering the pristine coral-covered blue waters and the technical jungle course of the XTERRA Global Tour's "Crown Jewel".

Marceau finished the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run XTERRA Saipan course in two hours, 27 minutes, and 16 seconds.

Bucher, for her part, also took four minutes off her previous time. She had a time of 2:49:00 in her second XTERRA win in 2006 but bested her record when she crossed the finish line in 2:45:08 on her second time around.

Andrew Noble of Australia and Julie Dibbens of Great Britain, meanwhile, won the longest-running triathlon event on Saipan a week later in March 24. Noble had a time of 2:52:24, while Dibbens recorded 3:04:07 in the Tagaman.

3 HANMI

From Page 28

has Richard Pambid, Raymond Tolentino, Derrick Tudela, and Marino Paungilug in its lineup.

The 2007-2008 season of the HANMI Cup is sponsored bt Titans Chivas Life, Pacific Telecom, Inc., Coca-Cola Bottlers Micronesia, and Western Sales Trading Company.

League coordinator Lito Espino said each best player of the game has received a Chivas Life bag, PTI phone card, and gift pack courtesy of Coca-Cola.

The league is sanctioned by the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and is organized by the Northern Marianas Bartenders Association.

ANALYZING

From Page 28

plays and what plays to call. Yes, the pace changes. But we can be a dangerous team when he dictates the tempo."

It's an issue the Wizards won't have to address until March, if they're lucky. Arenas will likely be out past the mid-February All-Star Weekend. In the meantime, there's so much less to worry about now that the Wizards are playing at a high level without him. For starters, they've had a bit of a personality transplant. Arenas is a star, a man whose steak has plenty of sizzle. Since he's been injured, the team has taken on a quieter, more serious way of operating because that's the personality of Jamison, Caron Butler and Antonio Daniels.

The role players have marched to that tune, and thrived doing so.

DeShawn Stevenson is quite eager to take on the likes of Atlanta's Joe Johnson defensively, while looking more assertively for his shot.

Brendan Haywood continues to be a force, at least defensively, most nights. He promised if given the minutes he could be counted on and in Etan Thomas's absence he has lived up to his promise. "He has embraced this defensive mind-set," Jordan said. "He has defended the rim pretty well." Haywood is a big part of the reason the Wizards have gone from 25th in opponents' field goal percentage last year to eighth this season.

More than a few people wonder if team chemistry would take a hit if Thomas returns to the lineup, given the fights he and Haywood have engaged in. But Thomas hasn't even been cleared for contact in practice, so it's unlikely the Wizards will have that bridge to cross anytime soon, if at all this season.

If Arenas and Thomas do make it back they'll discover a team with an attribute that was missing the last few years from this group. "Caron and DeShawn have improved our toughness," Jordan said. "Those two started it and it's become sort of contagious."

What's been taken for granted is the nightly contributions from two players who deserve serious all-star consideration: Butler and Jamison.

Only Orlando's Dwight Howard has more double-doubles than Jamison in the Eastern Conference. And Butler is averaging career highs in points, assists, steals, foul shooting. He and Jamison are the highest-scoring forward tandem in the league at 42.9 points per game. Using the NBA's efficiency rating, Jamison ranks sixth among all players in the East.

When people ask Grunfeld how the Wizards have played so well without their all-star he says, "Well, we've still have two all-stars out there, playing on an all-star level."

Beyond talent, what's evolved here is a relatively quiet group that likes to practice and that plays efficiently. Jordan likes most everything about this group, except the bench. "I'm not happy with the bench right now," he said. "The personality of the bench needs to change. We need that NBA intensity. You want energy coming from your bench. But this group is too cool for that."

Even so, Jordan likes the team harmony that has developed. True enough, it's relatively easy to have that when a team goes out and gives a Celtics team that was 30-4 its first consecutive losses of the season.

Though the season isn't half done, the confidence a team derives from beating a team as talented and as hyped as these Celtics is palpable. Even while grinding through Tuesday night's somewhat predictable loss to the Knicks at Madison Square Garden without their primary playmaker, Daniels, the Wizards displayed a stubbornness they lacked the last couple of seasons. They've developed a toughness and resourcefulness Jordan knows he'll have to find a way to maintain when Arenas comes back. The Wizards have discovered how to play well with a smaller margin of error. It would be a shame to see them trade this newly developed edge for more points from Arenas. Even so, they have expanded the possibilities of what this season can be and apparently what they think of themselves relative to the best teams in the Eastern Conference.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	31	6	.838	_
Toronto	21	18	.538	11
New Jersey	18	20	.474	13 1/2
Philadelphia	15	24	.385	17
New York	12	26	.316	19 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	24	17	.585	_
Washington	20	17	.541	2
Atlanta	17	18	.486	4
Charlotte	15	23	.395	7 1/2
Miami	8	29	.216	14

Central Division

Detroit	29	10	.744	_
Cleveland	21	18	.538	8
Indiana	8	22	.450	11 1/2
Milwaukee	16	23	.410	13
Chicago	15	22	.405	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	26	12	.684	_
New Orleans	26	12	.684	_
San Antonio	25	12	.676	1/2
Houston	20	19	.513	6 1/2
Memphis	10	28	.263	16

Northwest Division

Denver	23	15	.605	_
Portland	23	15	.605	_
Utah	22	18	.550	2
Seattle	9	29	.237	14
Minnesota	5	32	.135	17 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	27	12	.692	_
L.A. Lakers	26	12	.684	1/2
Golden State	23	17	.575	4 1/2
Sacramento	15	22	.405	11
L.A. Clippers	11	23	.324	13 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Cleveland 90, San Antonio 88
Denver 120, Utah 109
Phoenix 106, L.A. Lakers 98

BOB HOPE CHRYSLER CLASSIC SCORES

SECOND ROUND

D.J. Trahan	67-64	131
Robert Gamez	66-65	131
Justin Leonard	68-64	132
Steve Elkington	66-68	134
Brett Rumford	67-68	135
Scott Verplank	70-65	135
Ben Crane	66-69	135
Kyle Thompson	68-67	135
Tim Petrovic	65-70	135
Jeff Quinney	66-69	135
Mark Hensby	69-67	136
Anthony Kim	69-67	136
Charlie Wi	68-68	136
Dustin Johnson	67-69	136
Olin Browne	68-68	136
Todd Hamilton	67-69	136
Omar Uresti	65-72	137
Ken Duke	67-70	137
Bill Haas	69-68	137
Chez Reavie	69-68	137
Johnson Wagner	67-71	138
Vaughn Taylor	70-68	138
Nicholas Thompson	68-70	138
Mathew Goggin	65-73	138
Brian Gay	71-67	138
John Merrick	73-65	138
Kenny Perry	66-72	138
Jeff Sluman	71-67	138
Nick Flanagan	68-70	138
Mark Calcavecchia	67-71	138
Joe Durant	65-73	138
Kevin Na	69-69	138
Brad Adamonis	68-70	138
Ryuji Imada	71-68	139
Chris DiMarco	72-67	139
Heath Slocum	69-70	139
Stewart Cink	68-71	139
Ryan Moore	75-64	139
Kevin Streelman	67-72	139
Boo Weekley	69-70	139
Jon Mills	69-70	139
Corey Pavin	69-71	140
Charley Hoffman	68-72	140
Bart Bryant	71-69	140
Mike Weir	70-70	140
Woody Austin	68-72	140
Martin Laird	71-69	140
Tommy Gainey	70-70	140
Jason Bohn	66-74	140
Mark O'Meara	69-71	140
Michael Allen	69-71	140
Rocco Mediate	70-70	140
Eric Axley	69-71	140
Dean Wilson	71-69	140
Matt Jones	70-70	140
Lucas Glover	70-71	141
Mark Brooks	71-70	141
Frank Lickliter II	72-69	141
Tom Scherrer	71-70	141
Y.E. Yang	71-70	141
John Daly	71-70	141
Chris Stroud	70-71	141
Kevin Sutherland	70-71	141
Brian Davis	72-69	141
Rod Pampling	71-70	141
Shigeki Maruyama	65-76	141
Steve Flesch	72-69	141
Tommy Armour III	70-71	141
Joe Ogilvie	71-70	141
Jeff Maggert	70-71	141
Jesper Parnevik	67-74	141
George McNeill	68-73	141
John Senden	68-73	141
Shane Bertsch	70-71	141
Kevin Stadler	72-69	141
Bubba Watson	70-71	141
Robert Allenby	73-69	142
Tim Wilkinson	69-73	142
Paul Goydos	72-70	142
Cliff Kresge	70-72	142
Will MacKenzie	67-75	142
Scott McCarron	68-74	142
Billy Mayfair	68-74	142
Fred Couples	69-73	142
Alex Cejka	71-71	142
Brett Wetterich	71-71	142
Ron Whittaker	69-73	142
Nathan Green	68-75	143
Marc Turnesa	70-73	143
Charles Warren	74-69	143
Steve Marino	72-71	143
Michael Letzig	68-75	143
Jin Park	69-74	143
Cameron Beckman	70-73	143
Justin Bolli	72-71	143
Brad Elder	71-72	143
John Rollins	71-72	143
Billy Andrade	73-70	143
Shaun Micheel	72-71	143
J.J. Henry	71-72	143
Paul Claxton	70-73	143
Lee Janzen	66-77	143
Jason Gore	71-72	143
Chad Campbell	76-68	144
Cody Freeman	73-71	144
Patrick Sheehan	73-71	144
Tim Herron	70-74	144
Rich Beem	72-72	144
Travis Perkins	73-71	144
Jason Allred	72-72	144
Kent Jones	70-75	145
Troy Matteson	78-67	145
Ryan Armour	70-75	145
Carl Pettersson	69-76	145
Paul Stankowski	76-69	145
Scott Sterling	72-74	146
Tag Ridings	68-78	146
Todd Demsey	71-75	146
Bob Tway	73-73	146
J.L. Lewis	72-74	146
Richard Johnson	72-74	146
Briny Baird	73-74	147
Jim McGovern	72-75	147
Daniel Chopra	73-74	147
Matt Kuchar	73-75	148
Stephen Leaney	72-78	150
David Duval	73-77	150
Erik Wolf	78-77	155

By The Associated Press

James, Cavs beat Spurs in finals rematch

LeBron James scored 27 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat San Antonio 90-88 on Thursday night in the teams' first meeting since the Spurs swept the NBA finals last season. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Serena, Henin advance at Australian Open

Defending champion Serena Williams and top-ranked Justine Henin pushed aside two more overmatched opponents in the Australian Open, advancing to the fourth round with straight-set victories Friday. 25

MVA, Taga Inc. gear up for Sportfest

By MARK RABAGO
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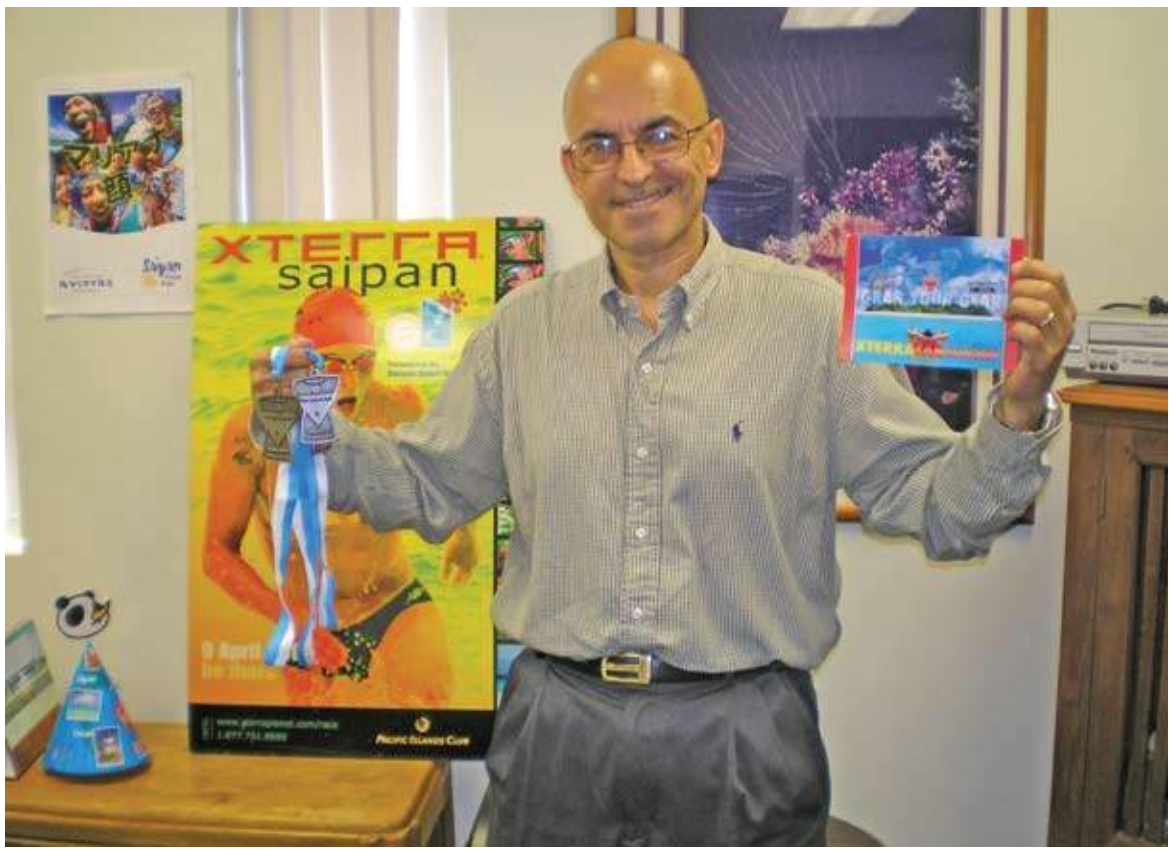
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Preparations for the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and the 19th Tagaman Triathlon are picking up steam with the Marianas Visitors Authority and Taga Inc. recently receiving equipment and paraphernalia for the main events of the 2008 Saipan Sportsfest.

In an organizational meeting held last Thursday, Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica said that the green cones and tents that would be used in the twin triathlons are already on Saipan.

He added that medals that were specially ordered from Ashworth Awards as well as Tagaman-XTERRA postcards from Taga Inc. founder Bill Sakovich have already been received by the organizing committee.

The XTERRA Saipan Championship, considered the "crown jewel" of the XTERRA series, and the 19th Tagaman Triathlon, the longest-running endurance race in the western Pacific, will be held in back-to-back weekends in March.



MARK RABAGO

Taga Inc. president Wolf Mojica shows off the postcards for the 7th XTERRA Saipan Championship and the 19th Tagaman Triathlon as well as Tagaman medals specially ordered from Ashworth Awards for this coming March's 2008 Saipan Sportfest.

The 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run XTERRA Saipan Championship wil be held on March 8. It will treat world class triathletes to a swim in the clear warm waters of the Philippine Sea, a bike

See MVA on Page 27

Japanese celebrities to join Saipan Marathon

Okushi

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Japanese celebrities will be joining close to 100 runners in today's simultaneous staging of the 3rd Annual Saipan Marathon, 26th Half Marathon, and 22nd 10-kilometer run.

The full marathon starts at 4:30am, while runners in the half and 10K run will begin their race at 5:45am. The start and finish lines will be at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

Some of the international participants that will join local runners in today's race are Japanese international model Erika Okushi, her trainer Nobuhiro Sakaki, and TV star Kanpei Hazama.

Comedians Yosuke Seto, Yoskitaka Nakamura, and Maki Utsunoyima will take some time out from their usual gags and funny antics as they try to challenge the grueling 26.2-mile course.

Japanese long-distance expert Kazuyoshi Tokumoto—who aims to join their national team in the Beijing Olympics—former Yomiuri Giants slugger Koji Goto, and *Body & Magazine* crew Takahiro Ono and Junko Yabe will also be donning their running shoes and make the early morning sacrifice.

The age divisions for the full marathon are up to 30-39, 40-49, and 50-and-up. The half and 10K age groups are 14-and-under, 15-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59 and Over-60.

The Top 3 male and female runners in each running event will receive prizes while all participants are entitled to join the raffle, which will be held during the banquet at 12noon at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

All participants will receive an event t-shirt after.

The full marathon starts at 4:30am while runners in the half and 10K run will begin their race at 5:45am. The start and finish line will be at Micro Beach at the American Memorial Park.

The race is held in cooperation with Marianas Visitors Authority, Northern Mariana Athletics, Northwest Airlines, Excite.com, and Oakley. Organizers would also like to thank MVA vice chair Marian Aldan-Pierce, JSTA president Hideki Sakai, and MVA board member Seijo Sato.

3 HANMI Cup games on tap Sunday

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2006-2007 HANMI Cup-Inter-Hotel Basketball League will have its full complement of three games tomorrow beginning at 3pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hafadai Beach Hotel (1-2) and Saipan World Resort (1-2) will try to follow up on their first wins of the season when they take on each other in the opener.

World Resort is expected to lean heavily on the high-scoring backcourt duo of Dennis Vinas and Jerryfel Mangahis, while Hafadai will look to do-it-all forward Peter Iguel to jumpstart their offense.

In the 4:45pm second game, league-leading and defending champion Aqua Resort Club (3-0) will take on cellar dweller Aquarius Beach Tower (0-2).

Like their previous games, Aqua Resort will rely on the playmaking wizardry of Rick Alegre and the scoring punch of Eric Dalangin.

Aquarius, meanwhile, might possibly continue to struggle in their third game of the season, as the status of leading scorrer Jeff Garcia is still questionable after the swingman sustained an injury in their last game against World Resort.

The third and final game of Sunday's tripleheader will then pit Asia Pacific Hotel (2-1) against Pacific Islands Club (1-1) beginning at 6pm.

Whippet-quick guards Elmer Esdrelon and Ryan Sanciangco and bull-strong Tom Alegre will banner APH's cause against PIC, which

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By MICHAEL WILBON
The Washington Post

Analyzing the Arenas factor

What the Washington Wizards did these last few days is expand the possibilities. What they did, beating the Boston Celtics not once but twice, demonstrated how good they can be without Gilbert Arenas, and probably how good they can be once he returns. They showed they can sustain a credible defensive effort against the best team in their conference, on the road no less. They showed, even while slogging through a fourth game in a fourth city in five nights, they've developed the physical toughness to push back against the best teams in the East.

Surviving without their best player, Arenas, made for a nice story. But beating the Celtics here and in Boston made the entire league take notice of what Coach Eddie Jordan and the Wizards are doing. They've won three of four and seven of 11. Since starting 0-5, the Wizards are 20-12.

They're 17-12 without Arenas, and in fourth place in the Eastern Conference, trailing the Celtics, Pistons and Magic. Antawn Jamison has hit double figures in scoring and rebounding 25 times, which is more times than Kevin Garnett. The Wizards' defense—some would say it's news they have one—was 29th (or next-to-last) in points allowed through 37 games last year, but has improved to 11th through 37 games this season.

It's quite common to hear an opposing coach or player whisper, "They're better off with Arenas out of the lineup."

Well, they're certainly more democratic. Opponents feel the ball moves better, that the Wizards take better shots, that the players who defer to Arenas when he's on the floor are more assertive without him.

Told of that growing sentiment Wednesday, Wizards GM Ernie Grunfeld said: "His teammates certainly don't think that's the case ... Gilbert can put us on a different level ... When we get Gil back we can be extremely dangerous."

It's a fascinating quandary, how to reintroduce the NBA's third-leading scorer from 2007 into a lineup that scores just fine without him most nights. The Wizards still have eight, sometimes 10 minutes a night when they struggle to score, which would be solved with Arenas back. But he's a player who needs the ball a disproportionate share of the time. As problems go, this isn't the kind the Wizards traditionally have.

When I asked Jordan how difficult it'll be to work Arenas back into the offense he said: "Remember, the major improvement in Gilbert's game over the last year or so is his knowing how to run the offense, knowing when to call

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